

ANNALS
OF
PORTSMOUTH,

COMPRISING A PERIOD OF

TWO HUNDRED YEARS FROM THE
FIRST SETTLEMENT OF THE TOWN;

WITH

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

OF A FEW OF THE

MOST RESPECTABLE INHABITANTS.

BY NATHANIEL ADAMS.

This shall be written for the generation to come.....PSALMS.
Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children,
and their children, another generation.....JOEL.

PORTSMOUTH :

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR

.....

1825.

C. Norris, Printer, Exeter.

DISTRICT OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE, to wit :

District Clerk's Office.

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the twenty-second day of November, A. D. 1824, and in the forty-ninth year of the Independence of the United States of America, Nathaniel Adams of the said District, has deposited in this Office, the Title of a Book the right whereof he claims as Author in the words following, to wit :

Annals of Portsmouth, comprising a period of two hundred years, from the first settlement of the Town; with Biographical sketches of a few of the most respectable Inhabitants. By Nathaniel Adams. This shall be written for the generations to come. Psalms. Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children, another generation.

Joel.

In Conformity to the Act of the Congress of the United States, entitled "An Act for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the Copies of Maps, Charts and Books, to the Authors and Proprietors of such Copies during the Times therein mentioned;" and also to an Act entitled, "An Act supplementary to an Act, entitled, An Act for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the Copies of Maps, Charts, and Books, to the Authors and Proprietors of such Copies during the times therein mentioned; and extending the Benefits thereof to the Arts of Designing, Engraving, and Etching Historical and other Prints."

WILLIAM CLAGGETT,

Clerk of the District of New-Hampshire.

A true Copy of Record,

Attest—WILLIAM CLAGGETT, *Clerk.*

Preface.

THE preservation of such facts, as will be useful to the future historian, is of public importance. Those which depend on memory, or have been long handed down by tradition, are liable either to be forgotten or misrepresented. They should, therefore, be carefully collected from time to time and deposited in such archives, as are prepared for them. Since the invention of the art of printing, the best mode of preserving historical facts, is by the press. The record of them is thereby multiplied, and the knowledge of them extensively communicated.

Every one should be acquainted with the origin and progress of the society to which he belongs. It is gratifying to the curiosity to learn the events of former days, in which our ancestors took an active part ; to hear of the hardships and perils which they encountered, and the fortitude with which they endured them ; to see the advances they made in obtaining the comforts and conveniences of life, and the state of independence and ease, in which they have placed their descendants.

For the benefit of the present generation, as well as to assist whoever may hereafter undertake to write a more connected history, I have endeavoured to collect the most authentic documents relative to my native town. For this purpose I have carefully examined all ancient records and papers, within my control, which had any connexion with the subject. I have likewise examined all the periodical publications, that have been printed in this town, which I could obtain. From these, I have made many selections and quotations. There was no printing office established in New-Hampshire, until the year 1756. For events prior to that period, I have consulted public records, or availed myself of the labours of the accurate historian of New-Hampshire, the Reverend Doctor Belknap, who has left no important event of early date unnoticed. The province was originally divided into four towns or associations, of which Portsmouth was the most populous, and took the lead in public affairs. Here the officers of government generally resided, and the courts were usually held. The history of the province will necessarily embrace that of the town. I have had frequent recurrence to this history, and often quoted from it. From many aged and intelligent persons I have obtained much valuable information. Through the indulgence of Thomas P. Drown, Esquire, the present town clerk, I have had access to the records of the town; and from them many of the facts related in these annals, have been extracted. It is to be

regretted, that there are no records of the town prior to the year 1652. Mr. Alden's account of the religious societies in Portsmouth, has been of essential service to me. These have been the principal sources, from which I have obtained the information contained in the following annals.

I have occasionally introduced biographical notices of some of the most distinguished characters, which have in their time, been an ornament or benefit to the town. It is a tribute due to worth and integrity, to hand down to posterity the names and characters of persons, who have filled important stations in life, with honor to themselves and advantage to the community. It may induce others to follow their examples, and imitate their virtues. Without doubt among the early inhabitants of the town were many eminent and useful men, whose names have sunk into oblivion, and whose virtues are unrecorded and unknown; many, whose names alone have reached us.

Should this publication be favourably received by my fellow townsmen; be the means of communicating to them any useful information, and of introducing them to the knowledge of some of our respectable forefathers, the object of the writer will be fully accomplished.

PORTSMOUTH, 1824.

Annals of Portsmouth.

THE discovery of America excited in the minds of the Europeans an insatiable desire of obtaining riches. It opened to them new sources of wealth, and induced many persons to leave their native shore and cross the wide extended ocean in pursuit of gain. The mines of South America first attracted their notice and inspired them with the most sanguine hopes. These inexhaustible funds were soon monopolized by the Spaniards and Portuguese; and other nations were obliged to turn their attention to different objects. The fur trade, and the fisheries afforded the best prospects of success; for which purpose establishments were made at Newfoundland, and this business was carried on by the English to a considerable extent. Among the adventurers who engaged in it, was John Smith, a very intelligent man, and skilful navigator. He left the Downs in the spring of the year 1614, with two ships, and arrived at Newfoundland the 30th of April. He there built several boats which he profitably employed in fish-

ing; whilst he in a small boat, with eight men, examined all the coast from Penobscot to Cape Cod, trading with the natives, as he passed from place to place. On this route, in the month of May or June, he discovered the river Piscataqua, which he described "as a safe harbour, with a rocky shore." He sailed for England the 18th of July in one of his ships, and arrived at London the last of August, when he published a description of the country, and a chart of the coast he had examined, which he called New-England. This is the first account we have of the river Piscataqua; nor does it appear that any other European visited it, for several years afterwards, either for the purpose of trading or making a settlement.

1621.

Captain John Mason was among the first who entered zealously into the scheme of making a fortune by trading to New-England and forming a permanent settlement there. He was a merchant of London, and afterwards engaged in a maritime life, and was concerned in the fisheries at Newfoundland, of which place he was governor. In consequence of his residence there he obtained some knowledge of the country. On his return to England he was appointed governor of Portsmouth in Hampshire. He was also elected a member of the council established at Plymouth in the county of Devon, by a royal charter

“for the planting, ruling, ordering, and governing of New-England, in America ;” and not long after was chosen their secretary. He was active in prosecuting the designs of the council ; and on the 9th of March obtained a grant from them “of all the land from the river Naumkeag (Salem) round Cape Ann, to the river Merrimack, and up each of those rivers to the farthest head thereof ; then to cross over from the head of the one to the head of the other ; with all the islands lying within three miles of the coast ;” which tract he called Mariana.

1622.

On the tenth day of August the Council granted to Mason and Sir Ferdinando Gorges jointly, “all the lands situated between the rivers Merrimack and Sagadahock, extending back to the great lakes, and the river of Canada,” by the name of Laconia. Gorges and Mason admitted as associates with them, several merchants of London, Bristol, Exeter, Plymouth, Shrewsbury, and Dorchester. They styled themselves the company of Laconia.

1623.

This company resolved to establish a plantation at the river Piscataqua and carry on the fishery there. Accordingly in the spring they sent over David Thompson a Scotchman, Edward Hilton and his

brother William Hilton, who had been fishmongers in London, with several other persons to commence the settlement, and furnished them with provisions, tools, and implements of every kind, necessary for accomplishing the great undertaking. These persons arrived safely in the harbour; but the precise time of their landing, and in what vessel they came is uncertain. The two Hiltons went up the river about eight miles, and settled on a neck of land, called by the natives Winnichahannat; but which they named Northam, since included in the town of Dover. Thompson and his party established themselves on the west side of Piscataqua river, near the mouth of the westerly branch, which they called Little-Harbour. Here the first house was erected, which was built on this plantation. The site of this house was on a peninsula, or point of land, now called Odi-orne's point, which is formed by Little-Harbour on the north east, and a creek on the south, with a large tract of salt marsh on the west. This place was selected with great judgment. The peninsula contains about five hundred acres of land, on which is a commanding eminence; where are evident remains of an ancient fort, and situated so as to be a complete defence against the incursions of a savage enemy. The house was erected a few rods to the northward of the fort. The present possessors of the land point out the spot on which it stood. They think they have discovered the foundation of the chimney and the cellar walls. These were standing

when Mr. Hubbard wrote his history in 1680. Three or four thousand acres of land were annexed to this building, with an intention of forming a manor there, according to the English custom. In the division of the property, which took place afterwards among the company of Laconia, this part of it was allotted to Capt. John Mason, who devised it by his last will, to his grandson Robert Tufton, by the name of Mason-Hall. Procuring a sufficient supply of salt for the use of the fishery, was one important object, among others, which demanded the attention of these first settlers. A large quantity was necessary for preserving the fish, which were taken in abundance. They erected salt works here, and manufactured salt to good advantage. Trading with the natives for furs was pursued by some of the settlers; others attended to the cultivation of the earth, and raised those articles, which were essentially necessary for their support, and which they could not otherwise obtain.

The colony of Plymouth were alarmed at the scarcity of provisions amongst them; and Governor Bradford sent Captain Standish to procure some. He came to Piscataqua, and the settlers here supplied him. David Thompson accompanied him to Plymouth on his return, and made a short visit to that colony.

1624.

Thompson having seen a very pleasant and fruitful island in the Massachusetts bay, which he preferred to his situation at Piscataqua, removed there in the spring, within a year after he began his former settlement. The General Court of the Massachusetts colony, sometime afterwards confirmed this island to him; and it has ever since been called after him, Thompson's island.

A ship arrived at Plymouth, which brought over three heifers and a bull. These were the first neat cattle that were imported into New-England.

Several merchants and adventurers belonging to Dorchester, in England, sent over some fishermen, with every thing necessary for carrying on the fishery, who made an establishment for that purpose at Cape-Ann: John Oldham and Roger Conant, who had left the Plymouth colony, were appointed overseers.

1625.

Captain Wollaston, with three or four persons of eminence, and thirty labourers, began a settlement on Massachusetts bay, at a place since called Braintree: the southerly part being mountainous, they called it Mount Wollaston.

1626.

Captain Wollaston did not remain more than a year on his plantation. It did not answer his expectation, and he removed with the greater part of his assistants and servants to Virginia. Thomas Morton and several others remained behind. In the fall, Mr. Conant removed from Cape-Ann to Naumkeag (Salem) and settled on a fruitful and pleasant neck of land. A number of planters made a settlement at Winnisimmet, and several others were begun along the coast between Piscataqua and Plymouth. A neighbourly intercourse was kept up among them ; and the natives had remained peaceable and friendly since the Europeans arrived here.

1627.

Morton and his companions at Mount Wollaston acquired considerable property by trading with the natives ; but being under no restraint, they became very dissolute ; they changed the name of their residence to Merry Mount, and erected a May pole there, around which they had indecent dances and revelings.

1628.

Thomas Morton had collected round him a number of runaway servants and disorderly persons, who

were unwilling to submit to regular government. This company was formidable to their neighbours on account of their irregular conduct. They were likewise in the habit of supplying the Indians with guns and ammunition, under pretence of employing them in hunting. The people were alarmed when they found the savages furnished with fire arms, and adroit in using them. The principal settlers at Piscataqua, Naumkeag, Winnisimmet and other places, met and agreed to solicit the colony of Plymouth, which was more powerful than all the rest, to join in suppressing Morton and his company before they did further mischief. The Governor accordingly sent a party under Captain Standish to put a stop to this unlawful traffic and irregular conduct. They seized Morton, and confined him; and dispersed the most disorderly of his adherents. They afterwards sent Morton a prisoner to England, by the first ship, which sailed for that country.

1629.

May 17, John Wheelwright, late of England, a minister of the gospel, Augustin Story, Thomas Wight, William Wentworth, and Thomas Leavitt, purchased of the Indians "all that part of the main land, bounded by the river Piscataqua and the river Merrimack, that is to say, beginning at Newichewannock falls in Piscataqua river aforesaid, and so down said river to the sea, and so along the sea

shore to Merrimack river, and so up along said river to the falls of Pautucket aforesaid, and from said Pautucket falls, upon a northwest line, twenty English miles into the woods, and from thence, to run upon a straight line north east and south west, till it meets with the main rivers that run down to Pautucket falls, and Newichewannock falls, and the said rivers to be bounds of the said lands, from the thwart line, or head line to the aforesaid falls, and the main channel of each river, from Pautucket falls and Newichewannock falls to the main sea, to be the side bounds, and the main sea between Piscataqua river and Merrimack river to be the lower bounds, and the thwart or head line that runs from river to river, to be the upper bounds; together with all islands within said bounds, as also the Isles-of-Shoals so called."

The principal agents and factors of the company of Laconia were witnesses to the execution of this deed, and of the delivery of quiet and peaceable possession of all the lands therein mentioned, to the grantees.

The land contained within the boundaries mentioned in this deed, includes all the settlements, which had been made by Mason and his associates in the patent of Laconia, which were west of Piscataqua river.

It has of late years been suggested, that this deed is not genuine. It is granted that Wheelwright and his associates obtained a deed from the Indians, of a

tract of land, about Squamscot falls, comprehended in the bounds of Exeter.

Nov. 7, Capt. John Mason procured a new patent from the Council of Plymouth, under their common seal, for a tract of land "from the middle of Piscataqua river, and up the same to the farthest head thereof, and from thence north-westward, until sixty miles from the mouth of the harbour, were finished; also through Merrimack river, to the farthest head thereof, and so forward up into the land westward, until sixty miles were finished; and from thence to cross over land to the end of the sixty miles as counted from Piscataqua river; together with all islands within five leagues of the coast." The land contained within this patent, was called New-Hampshire. This grant included all the land in Wheelwright's purchase. The grant of Laconia comprehended the whole of New-Hampshire; and the grant of Massachusetts was to extend three miles north of Merrimack river. In this manner the grants were continually interfering with each other, and the same lands were frequently conveyed to different proprietors. The boundary line between Massachusetts and New-Hampshire, was settled by agreement, between Matthew Cradock, the first Governor of Massachusetts, and Capt. John Mason, to be three miles northward of the Merrimack.

1630.

March 12, The Council of Plymouth granted to Edward Hilton and his associates, "all that part of the river Piscataqua, called or known by the name of Hilton's point, with the south side of the said river up to the falls of Squamscot, and three miles into the main land for breadth." Within these limits are contained the towns of Dover, Durham, and Stratham, with part of Newington and Greenland. Captain Thomas Wiggin was appointed agent for the grantees of this patent.

1631.

The settlements at Piscataqua did not advance very rapidly, nor were there many buildings erected until this year; they now began to increase. The 3d of November, the Council made a grant to Sir Ferdinando Gorges, Capt. John Mason, John Cotton, Henry Gardner, George Griffith, Edwin Gay, Thomas Warnerton, Thomas Eyre, and Eliezer Eyre, who had already expended three thousand pounds to promote the settlement of that part of the patent of Laconia, on which "the buildings and salt works were erected, situate on both sides the harbour and river of Piscataqua, to the extent of five miles westward by the sea coast, then to cross over towards the other plantation, in the hands of Edward Hilton." These were the original limits of Portsmouth, and

within them were included the present towns of Portsmouth, New-Castle, and Rye, with part of Newington and Greenland. Capt. Thomas Camocks and Henry Jocelyn were appointed to put the grantees in possession of this tract of land. The grantees appointed Captain Walter Neal their agent, and he resided at Little-Harbour. The names of the stewards and servants, sent by Mason into his province of New-Hampshire, were Walter Neal, Ambross Gibbins, Thomas Camocks, William Raymond, Francis Williams, George Vaughan, Thomas Warnerton, Henry Jocelyn, Francis Norton, Sampson Lane, Renald Fernald, Ralph Goe, Henry Goe, William Cooper, William Chadborn, Francis Matthews, Humphrey Chadborn, William Chadborn, Jun., Francis Rand, James Johnson, Anthony Ellins, Henry Baldwin, Thomas Spencer, Thomas Furrall, Thomas Herd, Thomas Chatherton, John Crowther, John Williams, Roger Knight, Henry Sherborn, John Goddard, Thomas Fernald, Thomas Withers, Thomas Canney, John Symonds, John Peverly, William Seavey, Henry Langstaff, William Berry, Jeremiah Walford, James Wall, William Brakin, Thomas Walford, Thomas Moore, Joseph Beal, Hugh James, Alexander Jones, John Ault, William Bracket, James Newt. The first ten were stewards, and had the superintendence of the various branches of business, which were carried on in the plantation. Godfrie, who had been here sometime, lived at Little-Harbour, and had the care of the fishery. He had under his di-

rection six great shallops, five fishing boats with sails, anchors, and cables, and thirteen skiffs. Chadborn built a house near the bank of the main river, about three miles from the mouth, which was called the *Great House*. This was situated near the corner of Water-street and Pitt-street, and was occupied by Warnerton. Gibbins had the care of the saw-mill at Newichewannock, and on his removal to Sanders' point, where the adventurers gave him a tract of land for his faithful services, Chadborn removed to Newichewannock, and took charge of the saw-mill. The care of the salt works was committed to Francis Williams. Renald Fernald was a Surgeon. With the persons above-mentioned, Mason sent over eight Danes and twenty-two women. The Danes were employed in sawing lumber, and in making potash. The proprietors likewise sent over several cannon and other warlike implements, which their agents placed on the northeast point of Great-Island, at the mouth of the great harbour, which they called Fort Point. They laid out the ground "about a bow-shot from the water-side to a high rock, on which it was intended, in time, to build the principal fort."—A severe contest arose between the agents of the two plantations, respecting the settlement of a point of land, which extended into the river from the southwestern shore, and which was equally convenient for both plantations. Wiggin began to make improvements upon it; Neal ordered him to desist. Wiggin persisted, and threatened

to defend his right by the sword : Neal replied in the same determined manner ; and they would have proceeded to extremities, if some more moderate persons had not persuaded them to refer the dispute to their employers. From these circumstances the contested place was called Bloody-point, and still retains that name.

1632.

Capt. Neal, Henry Jocelyn, and Darby Field set out on foot to explore the interior part of the country, in which they expected to meet with the great lakes, at a distance not exceeding one hundred miles. In this route they visited the White hills ; and from some chrystals, which they found there, they gave them the name of the Chrystal-hills. Their provisions growing scanty, and not being able to obtain a further supply in the wilderness, they were obliged to return, before they reached the lakes. They described the country through which they passed, in a most romantic style. In the fall of this year, the settlements along the sea-coast were alarmed with the conduct of one Dixy Bull, and fifteen others, whom he had associated with him. They committed several acts of piracy, and rifled the fort at Pemaquid. The two plantations on Piscataqua river, united and fitted out four pinnaces and shallops, in which they sent forty men. These being joined by a bark from Boston, with twenty men on board,

proceeded to Pemaquid in search of the pirates ; but they had gone farther to the eastward before this force arrived there, and by that means escaped being arrested. It was said that Bull was afterwards executed in England.

1633.

The bank of the river above where the Great House was built, and extending some distance above what is now called Church-hill, produced a large quantity of strawberries, on which account it was called Strawberry-bank, and Portsmouth was frequently called by the inhabitants of the neighbouring towns, *The Bank*, until the middle of the 18th century.

By order of the Proprietors, Capt. Neal, agent of the lower plantation, and Capt. Thomas Wiggin, the agent for the upper plantation, made a survey of their respective patents, and agreed upon their boundary lines. The lower patent runs from the Harbour's mouth by the sea-side to the entrance of a little river between two head lands, which they called Little Boar's Head, and Great Boar's Head, and from the mouth of that little river to go on a straight line to Wheelwright's Creek ; and from thence down the river to where it began. But these boundaries included part of Hilton's patent, which extended three miles on the south side of the river into the woods. This line was also adjusted by them, and a plan sent to the proprietors.

1634.

Capt. Neal returned to England, and the principal agency of the lower plantation devolved upon Ambross Gibbins and Thomas Warnerton. The proprietors had advanced large sums of money and received but small returns in lumber and furs, far short of their expenses : most of them were discouraged, and sold their proportion of the lands and public stock to Mason and Gorges. These persons engaged with new ardour in the undertaking, and made every necessary provision for carrying on their plantations and other business in New-Hampshire, extensively. They appointed Francis Williams Governor. “He was a discreet, sensible man, accomplished in his manners, and was very acceptable to the people.”

Mason and Gorges made a division of the property they held in common, and Gorges relinquished his right to all the lands in New-Hampshire.

1635.

On the 22d day of April the council of Plymouth made a grant to Capt. John Mason, of lands “extending from Naumkeag to Piscataqua, and sixty miles northwest-ward within the land, together with the south half of the Isles-of-Shoals.” This grant comprehended all that was contained in his two former patents. In the month of June following, the Coun-

cil surrendered their charter to the king. It has been reported that Charles 1st, by charter dated August 19, 1635, confirmed to Captain John Mason the aforesaid tract of land, granted to him by the Council of Plymouth, by the name of the province of New-Hampshire. This royal charter cannot be found on record, and it is denied by some that it ever existed. By a letter from George Vaughan to Ambross Gibbins, it seems improbable that it ever did.

Mason provided most liberally for his stewards and tenants. It appears by an inventory of the goods and implements belonging to his plantation at Piscataqua and Newichewannock, taken in July, that they had on hand a great abundance of arms, ammunition and military stores, and of clothing; all sorts of smith's, cooper's, carpenter's, and mason's tools; a quantity of naval stores and fishing gear, provisions, and cattle. The neat cattle were procured at Denmark, were of a large breed and yellow colour; they had been sent over three or four years since, and were the first cattle imported from Europe into New-Hampshire.

In September, Gorges sold to Mason a tract of land on the northeast side of the river Piscataqua, extending three miles in breadth, and following the course of the river from its mouth to its farthest head, including the saw-mills at Newichewannock-falls.

But as Mason's prospects began to brighten, and whilst he was flattering himself with the hopes of increasing his fortune by the settlement of New-Hampshire, he was taken away by death. Mason was bold and enterprising, and after he had obtained the grant of New-Hampshire, he advanced large sums of money to promote its settlement without receiving any immediate benefit. Perhaps had his life been spared, he might have enjoyed some small fruits of his labour, even if he had not amassed so great riches as he had expected. At any rate he was the principal means of the settlement of this place, and on that account his memory should be respected.

He died the 26th of November, and by his will, made a few days before his death, after several devises, he gave to his grandson, Robert Tufton, his manor of Mason Hall, and to his grandson, John Tufton, the residue of his estate in New-Hampshire, requiring each of them to take the name of Mason. Captain Mason was never in this country himself. His estate in New-Hampshire was valued at ten thousand pounds sterling.

1638.

Mrs. Anne Mason, who was executrix of Captain Mason's will, appointed Francis Norton her attorney, with general powers to take the management of the estate in New-Hampshire into his hands.

On the second of June, there was a severe shock of an earthquake. It appeared at first like distant thunder; as the sound approached, the earth began to tremble, and with so much violence, as to throw down dishes and plates, which stood upon the shelves; many were afraid that their houses would fall. Harvard College may date its origin from this year. The General Court had, two years ago, made a grant of two hundred pounds for the support of a public school at Newtown. Reverend John Harvard, minister of Charlestown, gave a great part of his estate, valued at about eight hundred pounds, for the same use. The General Court incorporated this seminary by the name of Harvard College, in honour of the donor. The name of the town was changed from Newtown to Cambridge. This was the first literary institution in the English Colonies, and all were interested in its welfare.

1639.

Mrs. Mason soon found that the income received from the estate here, would not justify the expense incurred. She neglected to furnish supplies, and her agents and stewards made her no more remittances, but divided the goods and cattle among themselves. Many of the people left the plantations, and those who remained, kept possession of the buildings and lands, and claimed them as their own.

1640.

The inhabitants of Portsmouth, having been destitute of any efficient government from the time of its first settlement to the present period, entered into a social contract to establish a government among themselves. They elected Francis Williams, Governor, and Ambross Gibbins and Thomas Warnerton, assistants.

On the twenty-fifth of May, twenty of the inhabitants, including the Governor and one of the assistants, made a deed of fifty acres of land for a glebe to Thomas Walford and Henry Sherburne, church wardens, and their successors forever, as feoffees in trust. Twelve acres of this land is situated in the compact part of the town, and is bounded easterly on Court-street, southerly on land of Daniel Rogers, and the society of the Universalists, westerly by land of William Sheafe, Mrs. Elwyn, William Stavers, and George Simes; and northerly by Congress-street. The remainder of the fifty acres is situated on the road leading from the head of the north mill-pond to the plains. This land has been granted on long leases upon very small annual rents. The names of the subscribers to this deed, are Francis Williams, Governor, Ambross Gibbins, assistant, William Jones, Renald Fernald, John Crowther, Anthony Bracket, Michael Chatterton, John Wall, Robert Puddington, Henry Sherburne, John Landen, Henry Tayler, John Jones, William Berry, John Pickering, John Billing, John

Wotten, Nicholas Row, Matthew Coe, William Palmer. It appeared by this deed that a parsonage house and chapel were already erected on the premises. The parsonage house stood where John Goddard Esquire's house now stands. The chapel was furnished with one great bible, twelve service books, one pewter flaggon, one communion cup and cover of silver, two fine table-cloths, and two napkins, which had been sent over by Mason. The people were not puritanical in their religious sentiments, but retained their attachment to the Church of England. Governor Winthrop says, "some of them were professed enemies to the way of our churches." They made choice of Richard Gibson, an Episcopal clergyman, for their first parson, and their worship was conducted agreeably to the ritual of the English Church.

Mr. Gibson did not continue long at Portsmouth. Having given offence to the government of Massachusetts, he was summoned before the Court at Boston ; but upon his submission, and in consideration of his being a stranger, and intending to leave the country, "they discharged him without fine or punishment." It does not appear what his offence was, for which he was obliged to answer. At the present day it would be considered as a very arbitrary measure for any court to summon a person, belonging to another government, to answer for an offence committed without their jurisdiction, more especially as there then was a government established, whose

courts had cognizance of every breach of the law. Hanserd Knolles was the minister of Dover, but many of the people were desirous of removing him for immoral conduct. Thomas Larkham arrived from England about this time, and being a popular preacher, the party in opposition to Knolles employed him as their minister. Knolles' friends were the most numerous, and they excommunicated Larkham. A riot ensued; the parties armed themselves, and Larkham sent to Governor Williams for assistance, who immediately went to Dover with a company under arms, and arrested Underhill, the Governor and Knolles. Williams, acting as a magistrate, although without his own jurisdiction, tried them as rioters, and found them guilty; and having fined them, obliged them to remove out of the government.

1641.

The settlements on Piscataqua river and its branches were formed into distinct governments, so that there were existing at the commencement of this year, four separate republics, independent of each other, namely: Portsmouth, Kittery, Dover, and Exeter. It had been long in agitation among the principal persons in these towns to unite with Massachusetts, and put themselves under their protection. The government of Massachusetts, desirous of extending their jurisdiction over a territory which they thought was included in their charter,

were willing to receive them. A negotiation took place between that colony, and the towns of Portsmouth and Dover. On the fourteenth of April the terms of the union were agreed on, and the contract was "subscribed in the presence of the General Court by George Willys, Robert Saltonstall, William Whiting, Edward Holyoke, and Thomas Makepeace, in behalf of themselves and the other partners of the two patents." By this contract, Massachusetts was to have "jurisdiction of government of the said people, dwelling or abiding within the limits of both the said patents, to be ruled and ordered in all causes, criminal and civil, as inhabitants, dwelling within the limits of Massachusetts' government, and to be subject to pay in church and commonwealth, as the said inhabitants of Massachusetts' Bay do, and no other: and the freemen of the said two patents, to enjoy the like liberties as other freemen do within the said Massachusetts' government; and that there shall be a court of justice kept within one of the two patents, which shall have the same power that the courts at Salem and Ipswich have." They were to send two deputies to the General Court. Exeter was not included in this contract, but was admitted into the union in September, the year following. Commissioners were sent to Piscataqua, "who appointed Francis Williams, Thomas Warnerton, and Ambross Gibbins of Portsmouth, and Edward Hilton, Thomas Wiggin, and William Waldron of Dover, as magistrates, which appointments were confirmed by the General Court."

1642.

By a law of Massachusetts, no freeman was allowed to vote in town-meeting, nor sit as a deputy in the General Court, unless he were a church member. On the eighth of September this law was dispensed with, as to the towns in New-Hampshire. As there had not been any minister settled, nor any church formed in this place after Mr. Gibson's departure, it is not probable that many of the inhabitants were members of any church. This qualification therefore was not required in the management of their town affairs, or for their deputies to obtain a seat in the General Court.

In the month of December, the town invited Mr. James Parker of Weymouth, "a godly man, and a scholar," to be their minister. He consulted with several magistrates and elders of the churches in Massachusetts, and by their advice accepted the call. He came and taught among them through the winter, but was not ordained nor settled here. He afterwards removed to Barbadoes.

1643.

A new county was formed, which comprehended all the towns between Merrimack and Piscataqua rivers, namely: Salisbury, Hampton, Haverhill, Exeter, Dover, and Strawberry-Bank, and was called Norfolk. Salisbury was made the shire town. But Dover

and Portsmouth, although belonging to the new county, had a separate jurisdiction ; and a court, composed of one or more of the magistrates or assistants of these towns, and commissioners, chosen by the General Court from the principal persons of each town, was held once or twice a year for the trial of causes, regulating their decisions by the laws of Massachusetts. This was called the court of associates ; and their jurisdiction extended to causes, where the matter in dispute did not exceed twenty pounds. An appeal lay from their decisions to the board of assistants. An Inferior Court, consisting of three persons, was established in each town, with jurisdiction over all causes of twenty shillings value, or under.

1644.

Thomas Warnerton resided at the Great house until this year ; he now shipped a large quantity of goods and arms, which formerly belonged to Captain Mason, and carried them to Port Royal, where he sold them to the French. He was slain soon afterwards in a rencontre with the inhabitants. After Warnerton's death, Sampson Lane, who had been one of Mason's stewards, took possession of the Great house. There were attached to it about one thousand acres of land, consisting of marsh, meadow, planting, and pasture grounds, and mostly under improvement.

1645.

Norton drove above an hundred head of oxen, which belonged to Mason's plantations, to Boston, and sold them there at twenty pounds sterling a head. He did not return to New-Hampshire, but abandoned the plantations there, and settled in Charlestown near Boston.

No person was allowed to be held in slavery, except those who were taken prisoners in war, or were sentenced to servitude by some judicial court for an offence, for which by law they forfeited their liberty. Captain Smith, on a voyage to Guinea, surreptitiously brought off a negro, and sold him here as a slave to Mr. Williams. The General Court enquired into the matter, and Captain Smith and his crew confessed the fact. The Court thought proper to write to Mr. Williams, requiring him forthwith to send to them the negro, bought of Captain Smith, that he may be sent home, which they were resolved to do without delay. And if he have any thing to allege why he should not return the negro to be disposed of by the Court, it will be expected that he should forthwith make it appear, either by himself or his agent.

1646.

Lane, having resided nearly three years on the plantation at Strawberry-Bank, embarked for Eng-

land. He had been engaged in navigation, and owned some shipping. Richard Cutt succeeded him in the occupation of the Great house.

1647.

Some where about this time, an alteration took place in the formation of the courts in Portsmouth and Dover. The associates were chosen by the inhabitants of both towns, in a joint meeting, at which their selectmen were present. These associates were united with the magistrates to constitute the court. Sometimes the General Court, by request of the inhabitants, appointed the associates, as they had formerly done.

1648.

The delusion respecting witchcraft made its appearance this year. Margaret Jones, of Charlestown, was accused of being a witch. It was said she possessed so much malignity, that if she touched a person in anger, however slightly, it produced convulsions, or other disorders, attended with violent pains. Upon such testimony, she was convicted and executed. This was the first execution for this offence in New-England. After her death, her husband determined to quit the country, and took passage for Barbadoes on board a ship, then lying in Charles River, with horses on board. The ship suddenly

began to roll, and it was feared she would overset. Jones, who was suspected of being the cause, was arrested and committed to gaol. After which, the ship ceased rolling, and rode quietly at anchor until she sailed.

1649.

Things, in themselves indifferent, have at times become important. Many innocent actions have been made criminal by the folly or superstition of mankind. The drinking of healths, a few years since, was prohibited by law, as a heathenish practice. This year wearing of long hair was condemned, as sinful. The Governor, Deputy Governor, and Magistrates, entered into an association to prevent the growing evil. “Forasmuch as the wearing of long hair, after the manner of ruffians and barbarous Indians, has begun to invade New-England, contrary to the rule of God’s word, which says it is a shame for a man to wear long hair, as also the commendable custom generally, of all the godly of our nation until within this few years: We, the magistrates, who have subscribed this paper (for the shewing of our own innocency in this behalf) do declare and manifest our dislike and detestation against the wearing of such long hair, as against a thing uncivil and unmanly, whereby men do deform themselves, and offend sober and modest men, and do corrupt good manners: We do, therefore, earnestly entreat all

the elders of this jurisdiction (as often as they shall see cause) to manifest their zeal against it in their public administrations, and to take care that the members of their respective churches be not defiled therewith, that so, such as shall prove obstinate, and will not reform themselves, may have God and man to witness against them.”

1650.

John Tufton, the grandson of Captain Mason, and the first heir named in his will, died in his infancy, and the estate in New-Hampshire descended, after the death of his mother, to his brother Robert Tufton, who became of age this year.

1652.

Commissioners were chosen in town-meeting for the “ending of small causes,” and the town appointed the times when they should hold their courts at “Strawberry-Bank.”

This year the selectmen examined the old town books ; and what was not approved was crossed out, and what was approved, was left to be recorded in a new book.

The common lands were granted by vote of the town ; and an excise was laid upon wines, which was paid to the town treasurer, by the persons licensed to sell them.

Deeds were executed in presence of two witnesses, and recorded in the town records.

Mrs. Mason sent over Joseph Mason, as her agent, to take charge of the estate here. He found Richard Leader in possession of the lands at Newichewanock, and commenced actions against him before the court in the County of Norfolk. Doubts arose whether the lands in dispute were within the jurisdiction of Massachusetts, and the question was referred to the General Court, who ordered a survey to be made of the northern boundaries of their patent.

1653.

A committee of the General Court, two surveyors and several Indians for guides, went in search of the most northerly point of Merrimack river, which the Indians informed them, was at Aquedoctan, the outlet of Winnepissiogee lake. The latitude of this place was found by observation, to be 43 degrees, 40 minutes, 12 seconds: to which they added three miles. They then sent two experienced seamen to find the same latitude on the eastern shore, who ascertained it to be on the north point of an island in Casco bay. A line drawn through these two points, from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean, according to their construction of the charter, they determined to be their northern boundary, which included the whole of Mason's claim, and the greater part of

Gorges'. The Court granted to the heirs of Mason, a quantity of land in lieu of what had been assigned him by Gorges and others, as a compensation for his disbursements and expenses. The agent saw no prospect of success, and therefore made no further attempt to recover any part of the estate, but returned to England.

1655.

At a town-meeting, held on the eleventh of April, the inhabitants "generally acknowledged themselves willing that Mr. Browne should continue their minister, as he had been, if he were so pleased;" and at a meeting the tenth of July, "It is ordered that Mr. Browne, our minister, is to give an account of what is his due from the inhabitants before this day." It is uncertain how long he had been preaching here, or how long he afterwards continued.

1656.

April 14th. At a town-meeting it is mentioned, that Mr. Sherburne hath promised to entertain Mr. Browne. The votes of the last year, and this memorandum, are all that can be found respecting him.

The inhabitants voted in town-meeting, on the twenty-seventh day of October, to give an invitation to Mr. Samuel Dudley, son of Thomas Dudley, the

Deputy Governor of Massachusetts, to be their minister, and to give him a salary of eighty pounds a year ; and appointed the selectmen a committee to present him the vote, and make a contract with him. They waited upon him the 10th of November, and presented him the vote of the town. He accepted the proposition, and agreed to visit them the next spring ; but it does not appear that he ever came. He was afterwards settled at Exeter, and died there in 1683, aged 77.

The delusion respecting witchcraft, extended itself generally throughout New-England : in a few instances it appeared in this town. Goodwife Walford was brought before the court of assistants for this offence, upon the complaint of Susannah Trimmings. A recital of the testimony will shew how far a disordered imagination contributed to make a person believe she was bewitched ; and what degree of credulity was necessary, to fix the offence upon the person accused. Mrs. Trimmings testified, “ As I was going home on Sunday night, the 30th of March, I heard a rustling in the woods, which I supposed to be occasioned by swine, and presently there appeared a woman, whom I apprehended to be old Goodwife Walford. She asked me to lend her a pound of cotton ; I told her I had but two pounds in the house, and I would not spare any to my mother. She said I had better have done it, for I was going a great journey, but should never come there. She then left me, and I was struck as with

a clap of fire on the back ; and she vanished toward the water side, in my apprehension, in the shape of a cat. She had on her head a white linen hood, tied under her chin, and her waistcoat and petticoat were red, with an old green apron, and a black hat upon her head." Oliver Trimmings, her husband, said, " my wife came home in a sad condition. She passed by me with her child in her arms, laid the child on the bed, sat down on the chest, and leaned upon her elbow. Three times I asked her how she did. She could not speak. I took her in my arms, and held her up, and repeated the question. She forced breath, and something stopped in her throat, as if it would have stopped her breath. I unlaced her clothes, and soon she spake, and said, Lord have mercy upon me, this wicked woman will kill me. I asked her what woman. She said Goodwife Walford. I tried to persuade her, it was only her weakness. She told me no, and related as above, that her back was as a flame of fire, and her lower parts, were, as it were, numb and without feeling. I pinched her, and she felt not. She continued that night, and the day and night following, very ill, and is still bad of her limbs, and complains still daily of it."

Nicholas Rowe testified, " that Jane Walford, shortly after she was accused, came to the deponent in bed, in the evening, and put her hand upon his breast, so that he could not speak, and was in great pain till the next day. By the light of the fire in

the next room, it appeared to be Goody Walford, but she did not speak. She repeated her visit about a week after, and did as before ; but said nothing."

Eliza Barton deposed, "that she saw Susannah Trimmings at the time she was ill, and her face was coloured and spotted with several colours. She told the deponent the story, who replied that it was nothing but her fantasy ; her eyes looked as if they had been scalded."

John Puddington deposed, that "three years since, Goodwife Walford come to his mother's. She said that her own husband called her an old witch ; and when she came to her cattle, her husband would bid her begone, for she did overlook the cattle, which is as much as to say in our country, bewitching."

Agnes Puddington deposes, that "on the 11th of April, the wife of W. Evans came to her house, and lay there all night ; and a little after sunset the deponent saw a yellowish cat ; and Mrs. E. said she was followed by a cat, wherever she went. John came and saw a cat in the garden—took down his gun to shoot her ; the cat got up on a tree, and the gun would not take fire, and afterward the cock would not stand. She afterwards saw three cats,—the yellow one vanished away on the plain ground ; she could not tell which way they went."

The first settlers were careful not to give titles to persons who had no claim to them. The degree of Esquire, was conferred on none but rulers and magistrates, and very few were addressed by the title of Mr. There are instances, where persons have been degraded, or deprived of this title by sentence of a judicial court ; which ordered that the defendant should hereafter be called by the name of — and not Mr. as he formerly used to be. The common appellation between neighbours, was Goodman, and Goodwife, or Goody.

1657.

On the first day of January, Henry Sherburne was chosen by the town, to be clerk of the County Court, and Richard Cutt to be an associate of the County Court.

On the 27th day of August, the town empowered Brian Pendleton, John Cutt, Richard Cutt, William Seavey, and Henry Sherburne, the Selectmen, to build a new meeting-house ; which they accordingly erected two or three rods to the southward of the mill-dam, on the crotch of the roads, leading to the pound, and Frame-point.

The inhabitants voted to give a call to Mr. *Woster* to settle with them in the ministry, in case they could agree with him after he had made a visit and preached here. On the seventh of September, the Selectmen sent one of their number to make the

proposal to him. It is uncertain whether he ever preached here.

1658.

Joshua Moody began his ministerial labours in this town, the beginning of this year. He was at first supported by subscription, eighty-six persons having subscribed for that purpose.

The town made a grant of the mill privilege at the outlet of the south creek to John Pickering, upon condition that he should make and keep in repair a way for foot passengers over the dam, in going to and from meeting.

There was a great earthquake this year.

1659.

February 21st. The selectmen granted "to Mr. John Cutt full liberty to set up a saw-mill and corn-mill on the creek leading up to the fresh marsh. He had the privilege of cutting timber on the common, for the saw-mill, both pine and oak, or any other timber. He was to grind corn for the town at all times, when required; and he was allowed the term of five years for building of said mills." Mr. Cutt erected a saw-mill and grist-mill at the head of the creek within the limited time. The saw-mill stood below the bridge, west of the place where Mr. Ham's house now stands, and the water was brought to

it across the road. Gondolas could come to the foot of the mill to take away the boards and lumber. The grist-mill was built at the dam, which was made across the fresh stream just above the place to which the tide flows. The remains of the dam are very apparent at this day.

1660.

The meeting-house or chapel, which had been erected on the glebe land, was disused after the new one was built at the south end. The town determined to alter it into a dwelling-house for the use of the minister, and Richard Cutt was appointed, by the selectmen, to superintend the work.

On the 5th of March, the town voted, in a formal manner, to settle Mr. Moody with them in the ministry.

When Charles the second ascended the throne, Robert Tufton, who had taken the name of Mason, entertained some hopes of recovering his property in New-Hampshire, and petitioned the king, complaining of the "encroachments of the Massachusetts' Colony upon his lands, their making grants, and giving titles to the inhabitants, and thereby dispossessing him, and keeping him out of his right," and prayed for redress. The king referred the petition to Sir Geoffry Palmer, the Attorney-General, who made his report on the 8th of November, that "Robert Mason, grandson, and heir to

Captain John Mason, had a good and legal title to the province of New-Hampshire.”

1661.

Mr. George Walton claimed the land at Fort-point, and commenced building upon it. He pretended, that he had it from Captain Neal, and had planted there some years since, but produced no deed or written title. The selectmen “forewarned him to forbear building or feneing on the same,” because that point of land had been appropriated for creeting fortifications for the defence of the harbour. The selectmen, upon application, granted liberty to Captain Pendleton to set up his wind-mill upon the Fort-point, towards the beach, because the mill is of such common and public use.

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1662.

September 25th. At a town-meeting, “ordered that a cage be made, or some other means invented by the selectmen, to punish such as sleep, or take tobacco on the Lord’s day out of the meeting, in the time of the public exercise.” “Voted, that whoever shall kill a wolf within the bounds of this town, and shall bring some of the next neighbours, where such wolf is killed, to testify it was done in this town’s bounds, and shall *payle* the head of such wolf killed, upon the meeting-house, he shall have five

pounds for his *paynes*, to be paid by the treasurer, the proof thereof being made to the treasurer in being."

1664.

April 18. The town empower the selectmen to repair the meeting-house, and to hang the bell, and to do whatever other finishing work, thereunto belonging, they shall see needful.

1665.

The government of Massachusetts were continually making encroachments, not only by extending their jurisdiction, but by granting lands within the boundaries of New-Hampshire. Mason and his heirs complained of this conduct, and Robert Mason made a representation of it to the King, who appointed Colonel Richard Nichols, Sir Robert Carr, knight, George Cartwright and Samuel Maverick, Esquires, Commissioners, with full powers "to visit the several colonies in New-England, to examine and determine all complaints and appeals in matters civil, military, and criminal; provide for the peace and security of the country, according to their good and sound discretion, and to such instructions as they should receive from the king, and to certify him of their proceedings." The government of Massachusetts regarded the appointment of these commissioners, with such

powers as they were invested with, as a violation of their charter, and would not submit to their authority. The Commissioners, excepting Colonel Nichols, came here in June, and were more favourably received than they had been in Boston. There were many, besides those attached to Mason's interest, who were disaffected to the government of Massachusetts, and cheerfully embraced the opportunity of effecting a change : others were strongly opposed to a separation. The Commissioners examined into Mason's claims, but came to no decision respecting them. They informed the inhabitants of this town, that they would release them from the government of Massachusetts, whose jurisdiction did not extend here. They appointed Justices of the Peace, and other officers of government, among whom, was Abraham Corbett, who undertook to act by virtue of this appointment, but, never having been commissioned by government, the General Court declared his offence to be a high misdemeanor, fined him five pounds, and committed him, until it was paid. Corbett was irritated by these proceedings, and, at the instigation of the Commissioners, drew up a petition, which he prevailed upon a number of the inhabitants to sign, in which they complained of the usurpation of Massachusetts, and prayed to be released from it. Those, who had refused to sign the petition, applied to the General Court for advice and assistance. The Court appointed a committee of three persons to enquire into the subsisting diffi-

culties and report to them, that they might redress the grievances. The committee came to this town, assembled the inhabitants, and enquired into their complaints. The majority of the people denied that there was any cause for complaint, declared the fullest confidence in the government, and their satisfaction with its administration.—The General Court issued a warrant, which was signed by the Secretary, against Corbett “for his tumultuous and seditious practices against government;” upon which he was apprehended, and being examined before the Governor and magistrates, “was adjudged guilty of sedition, and of exciting others to discontent with the government and laws, and of keeping a disorderly house of entertainment, for which offences, he was sentenced to find sureties for his peaceable behaviour and obedience to the laws: he was prohibited from retailing liquors; disabled from holding any office in the town or Commonwealth, during the pleasure of the Court; and obliged to pay a fine of twenty pounds, and five pounds for the costs of prosecution.”

1666.

Whilst the Commissioners were in this town, they received instructions from the King to have the harbours fortified; in consequence of which, they notified to the inhabitants to meet and adopt measures to carry his Majesty's orders into execution. As

soon as the Governor and Council were informed of these proceedings of the Commissioners, they sent two officers to New-Hampshire to forbid the towns to meet on their peril, or to obey the Commissioners. But that they might not appear to dispute the Royal authority, the Governor and Council appointed a committee to examine the ground, and determine upon the most suitable place for a fort. They made their report, that the neck of land on the eastward of the Great-Island, where a small fort had been already built, taking in the Great Rock, and from thence all the easterly part of the island, was the most suitable place ; which report was accepted. The fortification was ordered to be erected there. Richard Cutt, Esquire, was appointed Captain, and the men were taken from the companies at Great-Island and Kittery-Point, who were excused from all other military duty.

The Commissioners did not accomplish any one object of their mission in Massachusetts, or in this province. The government of Massachusetts openly opposed them, and they made an unfavourable report to the King of the treatment they had received. Colonel Nichols was of a mild, pleasant disposition, and his courteous deportment gained him the affections of the people. He was Governor of New-York, and, during his continuance in office, “kept up a friendly correspondence with the Governor and Company of Massachusetts.” The other Commissioners were of a very different character. Sir Robert Carr was

very turbulent and arbitrary, and the difficulties, which arose between the government and the Commissioners, were principally owing to him, and he was seconded in all his measures by Cartwright. The violence of their proceedings rendered them odious to the people. They were recalled by the King. Nichols remained in the country. Carr went first to Delaware, and thence to England. He arrived at Bristol the last of May, 1667, and died the next day. Cartwright was taken by the Dutch on his homeward-bound passage. He had taken minutes of the proceedings of the commissioners and of the opposition they met with ; but he lost all his papers at the time he was captured, and could never recover them, which deprived him of the opportunity of making so general a complaint as he intended. Maverick had resided in this country from its first settlement, and had always been in opposition to government. He went to England with complaints to the King, and solicited the appointment of commissioners to settle the disputes. He was entirely subservient to the others.

After the return of the commissioners, Massachusetts again peaceably exercised jurisdiction over the towns in New-Hampshire, as they had formerly done, and the people appeared to be satisfied with the government. “ At a general town-meeting, on the 19th of June, for the better carrying on the fortifications at Fort-Point, it was consented unto, and voted, that every dweller and liver in this town above

the age of sixteen years, whether householder, child, servant, or any other, residing in the town, shall, and do hereby promise to work at the same, one whole week, between this and the last of October next ensuing; and shall appear upon such days, as they shall have notice given them from time to time, until they have accomplished their several weeks' work, and to be allowed out of their subscriptions, three shillings per day, and to be at the fort by seven o'clock in the morning, and to give over at six in the evening, to begin on the Great Island, and so round by Sandy beach, and thence through the whole town."

1669.

The people of New-Hampshire had been united so long with Massachusetts in their political concerns, that they had contracted the same habits, and were generally influenced by the same principles. Harvard College was the only literary institution in the country, and every friend to learning was desirous of promoting its interest. It became necessary to erect a new building for the accommodation of the students, and a general collection was made for the purpose. Subscriptions were opened in many places. The inhabitants of this town subscribed sixty pounds, which sum they engaged to pay annually for seven years, to the overseers of the College. Dover gave thirty-two pounds, and Exeter, ten pounds for the same purpose.

1671.

Although Joshua Moody had regularly preached here since the year 1658, and the town had voted, in 1660, to settle him as their minister, he was not ordained, nor was a church collected here until this year. Mr. Moody has given a very particular account of these proceedings, in his church records.

“Portsmouth, N. E. Anno 1671. After many serious endeavours, which had been used by the then minister of the place, since the pastor of the church there, in public, and by several of the inhabitants in private, the Lord, without whose presence and blessing, man builds but in vain, was pleased at length to lay the foundation of an house, for himself in this place, of the beginning and progress whereof, here follows a brief but true account.

“In the winter-time of the foregoing year, viz. 1670, there were several meetings, together of the minister, with several of the inhabitants, who were members of other congregations in the country, and by Providence settled inhabitants in Portsmouth to discourse and confer about that great work and necessary duty of entering into church fellowship, that themselves might enjoy all the ordinances of the Lord’s house, and their little ones also might be laid near God’s altars, and brought up under the instruction and discipline of his house. Nor could they, that were members of other churches, any longer satisfy themselves to live without the enjoy-

ment of these edifying and strengthening ordinances, that their souls had, in some measure, formerly tasted the good of, though now for some years, been kept from. Others also, well affected to the work, professed their longings after those fat and marrowed things in God's house, and their readiness to join with them in helping to build, if they should be found fit for the same.

“Hereupon, several assembled in private, and sought the Lord by fasting and prayer, that he would discover to us a right way, there being many fears and discouragements before us, for ourselves and our little ones, and we hope we may say he was intreated of us, as the event hath in some measure, blessed be his name, made manifest.

“It was agreed that those, which were in full communion with other congregations abroad, should acquaint the respective churches, to which they did belong, with the motion on foot, and desire their advice, approbation, countenance, and prayers therein, which was accordingly done.

“There was a meeting appointed in a private house, wherein all that had given in their names for the work, were to assemble, and to read each to other, a reason of the hope that was in them, by giving account of their knowledge and experience, that so they might be satisfied one in another, and be capable of joining together as members of the same body. Several days were spent in this exercise, to the mutual refreshing and endearing of the

speaker, and to the awakening and warning of others of the neighbours, that were, as they had liberty to be, present at these exercises.

“In fine, there was another meeting to enquire whether all, that had made relations, were so satisfied, one in another, as to their relations and conversations, as that they could with freedom of spirit join in a body together, and unite in the same society according to the rules of Christ. What grounds of scruples lay upon the spirits of any, with reference to one or other of the fore-mentioned company, was lovingly and plainly propounded, and satisfaction was ingenuously tendered on the one party and accepted by the other. Furthermore, we did discourse of, and discover our apprehensions and persuasions concerning the order and discipline of the house of God. And there was a unanimous consent unto what had been publicly delivered in many sermons in the latter end of the year 1670, and the beginning of the year 1671, from Ezekiel, xliiii. 10, 11, 12, about the laws, ordinances, and forms of the house, with the goings out thereof, and the comings in thereof. Of such high concernment did, and do we account it to be for peace and edification of the whole, that both pastor and people should in these matters, at least for the substance, and as near as may be in mere circumstantialia also, speak the same things.

“Hereupon, there were some appointed to acquaint the civil authority, according to the law of

the country, with what was thought on among us, that by the good liking and encouragement of the same, we might make an orderly and comfortable procedure in the work before us. Which being done, several churches were sent to, and entreated to send their elders and messengers upon the — which was appointed for the gathering of the church and ordination of the officers therein. The church of Cambridge was sent to, because the pastor did belong to that church. They brought his dismission. Also the church at Ipswich, Rowley, and Hampton. They met accordingly, and Governor Leverett came also, and several magistrates with him. For no church could settle a minister without the approbation of the Governor and rulers.

“He, that was appointed pastor, preached in the morning out of Ezekiel, xlviii. ult. After sermon some intermission was made, and on their meeting again, the pastor with all those, who were to be beginners of the new church, made their relations, and those who were members of other churches, had their dismissions, and all made their relations, whether members or non-members, and they were approved by the messengers of the churches, and embodied into a church by an explicit covenant. Then the pastor was ordained after the unanimous vote of the church for the choice of him, and liberty given to all the congregation to object, if they had ought to say. He was ordained by several of the elders at the desire of the church. Mr. Cabot giving him his

charge, and Mr. Wheelwright, the right hand of fellowship. Then the pastor ordained Samuel Haines, deacon, with imposition of hand and prayer. A psalm was sung, and the congregation dismissed by the pastor, with a prayer and blessing."

There were nine persons, who entered into covenant and composed the first church, namely, Joshua Moody, John Cutt, Richard Cutt, Elias Stileman, Richard Martyn, Samuel Haynes, James Pendleton, John Fletcher, and John Tucker.

The Selectmen agree with William Cotton to fence the ground for a training-field, and to clear off all the trees and bushes from the same.

N. B. This is the same ground, which the town conveyed to the south parish in 1809, and is now occupied by the Rev. Doctor Parker.

July 24. The Selectmen agree with John Pickering to build a cage twelve feet square, with stocks within it, and a pillory on the top, a convenient space from the west end of the meeting-house.

1672.

March 12. Voted, that if any shall smoke tobacco in the meeting-house at any public meeting, he shall pay a fine of five shillings for the use of the town.

The General Court at Boston, appointed Elias Stileman, John Gilman, and Samuel Dalton, a committee to settle boundaries between this town and Hampton.

The Court likewise “declares that they shall be willing to grant to Portsmouth land for a village, when they shall declare to this Court the place where they desire it.”

1673.

The town voted and consented to assume, and carry into effect the engagement made by individuals of the town, in the year 1669, to pay sixty pounds annually, for seven years, for the benefit of Harvard College.

John Pickering, in a general town-meeting, held the 13th of March, “did voluntarily and freely for himself and heirs forever, surrender to the town an highway of two rods broad, through his land, commonly called Pickering’s neck, with liberty to pass over his dam, both for horse and foot, to and from the meeting-house, and this to lie forever for a public highway.” In consideration whereof “the town, though they believe and know that it was their own before, yet to gratify the said John Pickering, and to prevent what trouble might otherwise arise, do freely give him fifty acres of land in some convenient place, where the town hath any common land.” Pickering engaged to build a sufficient bridge six feet wide over his mill-dam, for the sum of fifty shillings, and to maintain the said bridge during his natural life, for twenty shillings a year.

1675.

A war broke out between the Indians and the Plymouth Colony. The tribe of Womponoags, who were their nearest neighbours, commenced the hostilities, and from the name of their sachem, it was called Philip's war. But it soon became general, and all the English settlements from Plymouth to Kennebeck, were involved in it. A circumstance took place, which incited the eastern Indians more readily to join in it. A sachem named Squando resided near the river Saco. He was a person of great consequence, not only with his own tribe, but also with all the neighbouring Indians: He possessed, as they supposed, a power of divination and enchantment, and took the lead in their religious exercises, which gave him great influence among them. Some sailors met his squaw, who had her infant with her on the river in a canoe, which they overset for sport. The child sunk, and the mother, diving to the bottom, brought it up alive; but it died soon after, and they concluded its death was caused by this conduct of the sailors. Squando resented the insult very highly, and exerted himself to provoke the Indians to war against the English. Portsmouth was subject to constant alarms; business was suspended, and every one was obliged to provide for the safety of himself and family. The inhabitants generally left their habitations, and collected together in some house, suitable for a garrison,

where they kept guard continually, to prevent being surprised by the enemy. The neighbouring towns were greater sufferers than Portsmouth. A party of Indians, about the last of October, came down the river, killing and plundering every person they found off their guard, till they came opposite to this place, when some cannon being fired at them, they retreated precipitately and fled to the swamps.

Whilst these difficulties and distresses were prevailing, the inhabitants were alarmed with the expectation of new troubles and embarrassments, in consequence of some proceedings then taking place in England. Robert Mason had again renewed his claim to New-Hampshire, and petitioned the King to be reinstated in his property there. The King submitted the question to Sir William Jones, his Attorney-General, and to Sir Francis Winnington, his Solicitor-General, who reported, "That John Mason, Esquire, grandfather to the petitioner, by virtue of several grants from the Council of New-England, under their common seal, was instated in fee in sundry great tracts of land in New-England, by the name of New-Hampshire, and that the petitioner, being heir at law to the said John, had a good and legal title to said land.

1676.

In consequence of the opinion of the Attorney and Solicitor-General upon Mason's petition, the lords of trade and plantations, sent Edward Randolph, a relation of Mason, to New-England, to examine into the state of affairs there. After having delivered to the government of Massachusetts, a citation to send over agents to answer to Mason's complaint, he came to Portsmouth in July, and published the letter from Mason to the inhabitants, claiming the territory of New-Hampshire as his property. This letter excited great alarm among the people, and on the 1st of September they held a town meeting, at which they appointed John Cutt and Richard Martyn, Esquires, and Captains Daniel and Stileman, to draft a petition to the King for a redress of their grievances. They stated, that they had bona fide purchased their lands of the Indians, had brought them from a state of nature, under cultivation, at a great expence, and prayed for relief against Mason's claim. Which petition they forwarded to the King.

The Penobscot tribe of Indians sent Mogg, one of their chiefs, to the English settlement with proposals of peace. He came to Portsmouth and brought with him two men, Fryer and Kendall, who belonged to this town, and had been taken on board a vessel at the eastward. Mogg was sent to Boston, where articles of peace were agreed upon and sign-

ed the sixth of November, by the Governor and magistrates on the one part, and Mogg on the other: and the peace was afterward ratified by the sachem, Madokawando.

1677.

This peace was of short duration, and several of the Narraganset Indians being found among the eastern tribes, it was suspected that their design was to renew the war and ruin the fishery. In addition to this, Mogg, who was a hostage for the performance of the articles of the treaty on the part of the Indians, being permitted to go to some neighbouring tribes to persuade them to deliver up their captives, did not return again, although he had engaged to be back in three days. Some gentlemen in Portsmouth represented to the government at Boston the danger to which they were exposed, and they sent off a party of two hundred men, under command of Major Waldron, to protect the eastern settlements. This detachment sailed the beginning of February, touched at several ports, and had several slight skirmishes with the Indians. The Major proceeded as far as Kennebeck, where he built a fort and left forty men to defend it, under command of Captain Sylvanus Davis, and returned to Boston the 11th of March, without losing a man, having in this expedition killed thirteen of the enemy. The fort at Kennebeck did not answer a very valuable

purpose, a number of the garrison had been surprised and taken or killed, and the remainder of them were brought to Portsmouth. The inhabitants were at this time in continual alarm from the enemy, who were scattered through the outskirts of the town. On the sixteenth of April, they burned the house of John Kennison, at Greenland, and killed him. A young woman was captured at Rawlings' house, but she made her escape and came to Cocheco. On Sunday morning, the 27th of May, a party of twenty, conducted by Simon, one of the western Indians, who had been confined in Dover the last year, but broke gaol and escaped, surprised six of the friendly Indians, whom they found drunk in the woods, a small distance from the town; they continued round the town till night, and then crossed the river at Long-Reach, and proceeded through Kittery towards Wells. The Indians continued their depredations through the summer without meeting much opposition, and had an opportunity of gratifying their revenge upon the eastern settlements, which were greatly reduced by the war.

The government of Massachusetts appointed William Stoughton, who was afterwards Lieutenant Governor, and Peter Bulkley, then speaker of the house of deputies, agents to oppose the claim of Mason, and defend against his complaint. On their arrival in England, the Chief Justices of the King's Bench and Common Pleas, with a committee of the Privy Council, were appointed to hear the parties.

The agents in behalf of the Colony disclaimed all title to lands claimed by Mason, and to the jurisdiction of the territory lying three miles northward of the river Merrimack, to follow the course of the river so far as that extended. The Chief Justices and Lords reported, that as to the right of soil claimed by Mason, they could not determine; the ter-tenants not having been summoned, the proper parties were not before them: and that Mason had not the right of government over the territory he claimed, and that the four towns of Portsmouth, Dover, Exeter, and Hampton, were not within the bounds of Massachusetts. Which report was accepted and confirmed by the King in Council, the 20th of July; "and all parties were ordered to acquiesce therein and contribute what lies in them, to the punctual and due performance of the said report as there shall be occasion."

1678.

Although the Indians had been successful the last campaign, they were willing this spring to make peace. Major Shapleigh, of Kittery, Captain Champ-ernoon and Mr. Fryer, of Portsmouth, were appointed commissioners to agree with Squando, and the other chiefs, upon the terms on which it should be established. They met at Casco for the purpose, and the treaty was signed on the twelfth of April, in which it was stipulated, that the settlers might

return to their habitations and occupy them without molestation, on condition that they should annually pay the Indians one peck of corn for each family, and one bushel for Major Pendleton, who possessed a large estate. However humiliating it might appear, to be obliged to pay this tribute, it was thought better to submit to it, than to leave their settlements, which it was in the power of the Indians to compel them to do. This treaty put an end to a distressing war, which had existed three years, and had greatly reduced the number of the inhabitants; and all the captives, which remained in the custody of the Indians, were restored to their friends.

1679.

Randolph returned to England after a short residence in this country, and confirmed the several articles of Mason's complaint against the government of Massachusetts, with many exaggerations. Whereupon it was determined by the King, in Council, to erect New-Hampshire into a separate government under the jurisdiction of a President and Council to be appointed by the King. Accordingly, on the 18th of September, a commission passed the great seal appointing John Cutt of Portsmouth, President, to continue in office one year, or until another should be appointed to succeed him. Richard Martyn, William Vaughan, and Thomas

Daniel, of Portsmouth, John Gilman of Exeter, Christopher Hussey of Hampton, and Richard Waldron of Dover, were to be of the Council, with power to elect three others to be added to their number. The President had authority to appoint one of the Council his deputy, to preside in his absence. The President, or his deputy, and five counsellors, to be a quorum. The President and Council were constituted a court of judicature, with civil and criminal jurisdiction, reserving in certain cases a right of appeal to the King; they were to appoint civil and military officers, to issue writs for calling an assembly, who with them were empowered to enact laws subject to a revision by the King; on the death of the President, his deputy to succeed him; and when a Counsellor shall die, the remainder to elect another, and send over his name with the name of two other suitable persons, that the King might appoint one of the three.

The King engaged to continue the privilege of an assembly, unless from the inconvenience attending it, he should see cause to alter. This was the only charter ever granted to New-Hampshire.

1680.

This commission was received at Portsmouth the first of January, and the several persons therein appointed were qualified, by taking the oaths, on the 22d of the same month. They elected three per-

sons to fill the Council, agreeably to the direction in the commission, namely, Elias Stileman of Great-Island, which was then a part of this town, Samuel Dalton of Hampton, and Job Clements of Dover. The President nominated Richard Waldron for his deputy. Martyn was appointed Treasurer, and Stileman Secretary. The President and Council issued writs to the four towns of Portsmouth, Dover, Hampton, and Exeter, designating the qualified voters in each by name, requiring them to choose suitable persons to represent them in the General Assembly, and each voter was obliged to take the oath of allegiance. Portsmouth at this time had 71 voters, Dover 61, Hampton 57, and Exeter 20. Each town sent three representatives, except Exeter, which sent only two. The representatives of Portsmouth were Robert Elliot, Philip Lewis, and John Pickering. "The Assembly met in this town on the 16th of March and was opened with prayer, and a sermon, by the Rev. Mr. Moody." One of the first acts of the General Assembly was to address the following letter "to the honourable Governor and Council of the Massachusetts' Colony, to be communicated to the General Court humbly present in Boston."

"Much Honoured"—The late turn of Providence made amongst us, by the all ordering *Being*, hath given occasion for this present application, wherein we crave leave, as we are in duty bound—1st, Thankfully to acknowledge your care for us and kindness while we dwelt under your shadow, owning our-

selves deeply obliged that you were pleased upon our earnest request and supplication to take us under your government, and ruled us well whilst we so remained, so that we cannot give the least countenance to those reflections that have been cast upon you, as if you had dealt injuriously with us.

2dly. That no dissatisfaction with your government, but merely our submission to Divine Providence, to his Majesty's commands, to whom we owe allegiance, without any seeking of our own, or desire of change was the only cause of our complying with that present separation from you that we are now under; but should have heartily rejoiced if it had seemed good to the Lord and his Majesty, to have settled us in the same capacity as formerly. And withal we hold ourselves bound to signify, that it is our most unfeigned desire that such a mutual correspondence betwixt us may be settled as may tend to the glory of God, the honour of his Majesty, whose subjects we all are, and the promoting of the common interest and defence against the common enemy; that thereby our hands be strengthened, being of ourselves weak and few in number, and that if there be opportunity to be any wise serviceable unto you, we may shew how ready we are, thankfully to embrace the same. Thus wishing the presence of God to be with you in all your administrations, and craving the benefit of your prayers and endeavours for a blessing upon the heads and hearts of us who are

separated from our brethren. We subscribe
John Cutt, President.

With consent of the Council and General Assembly."

From this it appears how very reluctantly they consented to the separation from Massachusetts, and nothing could have induced the President or Council to have accepted their appointment (which was made without their knowledge) but his Majesty's express command, which they conscientiously thought themselves obliged to obey. Their commission required "that all excuses set apart, they fail not to assemble," and undertake the duties of their respective offices.

A court of inferior jurisdiction was established at Portsmouth, Dover, and Hampton; from each of which an appeal lay to the President and Council, who had original as well as appellate jurisdiction, criminal and civil, and who tried their causes through the intervention of a jury when either party desired it.

Randolph had been appointed by the King collector of the customs for New-England. On the 22d of March he seized a vessel belonging to this place, under pretence of a breach of the acts of trade and navigation. The master, Mark Hunking, brought an action against him, before the President and Council, and recovered judgment for thirteen pounds damage and cost. Randolph appointed Captain Walter Barefoote deputy collector, for this

port, who advertized "that all vessels should be entered and cleared with him." For attempting to execute an office, not derived from the constituted authorities of the province, he was indicted on the 24th of March before the President and Council, and found guilty, and sentenced to pay a fine of ten pounds, and stand committed till sentence was performed.

Robert Mason, who claimed the territory of New-Hampshire, arrived from England on the 30th of December, with a writ of mandamus from the King commanding the President and Council to admit him one of the Council.

Richard Chamberlayne was appointed by royal authority secretary of the Province in the place of Elias Stileman.

"Taxes were commonly paid in lumber or provisions at stated prices, and whoever paid them in money was abated one third part.

The prices for this year were as follows :

Merchantable white pine boards	30s. per M.
White oak pipe staves	3 <i>l</i> . per M.
Red oak ditto	30s. per M.
Red oak hhd. staves	25s. per M.
Indian corn	3s. per bushel.
Wheat	5s. per bushel.
Malt	4s. per bushel.
Silver was rated at	6s. 8 <i>d</i> . per oz."

1681.

Before the change of the government, the King had required Mason to relinquish all demands he might have for rents, against the inhabitants of New-Hampshire prior to the 24th of June 1679, and made him engage not to molest any of them in their possessions, provided they would pay him sixpence in the pound, according to the just and true yearly value of the houses and lands possessed by them. On his arrival here he took his seat at the Council-board, and assumed the title of Lord Proprietor. He made great exertions through his agents, to obtain leases of the inhabitants upon the stipulated terms, but without much success. His failure irritated him, and he threatened to sell their houses and lands for the rents. This excited a great clamour against him, and the people applied for protection to the President and Council, who issued a writ of prohibition against him. Mason refused to meet the Council when summoned, mutual recriminations passed between them, and being quite dissatisfied with the reception he met with, and disappointed in his hopes of establishing his fortune, he returned to England on the 27th day of March.

President Cutt, being considerably advanced in years, and very infirm, died on the 5th of April. He was a native of Wales, and with his brothers, Robert and Richard, came to this country previous

to the year 1646. John settled in this town, and became a very respectable and opulent merchant. Richard settled at the Isle-of-Shoals and carried on the fisheries there. He afterwards removed to this place, and lived in the Great House at the bottom of Pitt Street. Robert went first to the Island of Barbadoes in the West-Indies, and after a short residence there, he came to this town, and lived at Great-Island. He afterwards removed to Kittery where he established a ship-yard, and carried on the business of ship-building very extensively. During the life of President Cutt, the inhabitants of this town were chiefly settled at the South-End near the Point of Graves. The upper part, which was *the Bank*, was principally owned by him, his brother Richard, Major William Vaughan, and Richard Waldron, jr. who were the first persons in the province, both in point of wealth and family connexions. This large space of ground, which is now so thickly inhabited, contained then but ten or twelve dwelling houses, and about as many warehouses, which belonged to the above gentlemen.

President Cutt in his last will, made a short time before his decease, says, "I commit my body unto a decent burial in my orchard, where I buried my wife and children that are deceased." This spot has been inclosed and kept as a family burying ground by some of his descendants, and is now thickly surrounded by buildings.

President Cutt was esteemed by all who knew him. He had been much engaged in public business, and had filled some of the most important offices under the government of Massachusetts, before he was appointed President of New-Hampshire.

As he had been active and useful in life, his death was universally lamented.

Major Richard Waldron succeeded Mr. Cutt as President, and appointed Elias Stileman his deputy.

1682.

Walter Barefoote, as deputy collector of this port under Randolph, seized a vessel here on the 10th of March, for a pretended violation of the laws of trade ; for which offence, namely, attempting to execute an office, without authority derived from the government of the Province, he and his assistants, William Haskins and Thomas Thurton were prosecuted. Barefoote pleaded his deputation from Randolph, as his justification, notwithstanding which, he and his assistants were convicted. Barefoote was sentenced to pay a fine of twenty pounds, and his assistants five pounds each, which were not to be exacted during their good behaviour. An appeal was claimed from this sentence to the King, but was never prosecuted.

After Mason's return to England, he solicited the King for a change of government, in hopes of procuring one more favourable to his views as proprie-

tor of the province; and to induce the King to comply with his wishes he conveyed to him, by deed, one fifth part of the quit rents, which had or should become due; which, with the fines and forfeitures, were appropriated to the support of government. On the 9th of May Edward Cranfield was appointed Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of New-Hampshire. And Mason mortgaged the whole province to him, for the term of twenty-one years, as security for the payment of one hundred fifty pounds yearly, for seven years. Mason with seven others of the former counsellors, were reappointed, and Walter Barefoote and Richard Chamberlayne were added. Cranfield accepted his appointment; he arrived at Portsmouth and published his commission on the fourth of October. He caused an assembly to be summoned, which met on the fourteenth of November.

1683.

The Governor dismissed Captain Elias Stileman from his command of the fort, a station which he had held for several years to the general acceptance of the inhabitants, and the approbation of the members of the former administration. The ostensible reason for his removal, was his suffering a vessel which had been seized, to pass out of the harbour. If this had been a fact, he should have been arrested, tried and punished. But as the Governor re-

moved him from the Council about the same time, it was suspected that he was influenced by other motives. Barefoote was appointed to the command of the fort.

At a session of the General Assembly, held in the month of January, a misunderstanding took place between the Governor and Representatives, who had refused to pass a bill to raise money for the support of government. The governor dissolved them. This was an exercise of power hitherto unknown in this country, and it excited much jealousy among the people. They were apprehensive that he intended to take the government into his own hands; or make continual changes in the Council and House of Representatives, till he had secured a majority of both houses, who would be subservient to his wishes. His interest was strongly connected with Mason's, as he depended on him for a considerable part of his salary. He was desirous of establishing Mason's claim, and that the inhabitants should take leases under him, subject to a quit rent. The Governor accordingly on the fourteenth day of February, publicly "called on the inhabitants to take their leases from Mason within one month, otherwise he must certify their refusal to the King, that Mason might be discharged from his obligation to grant them."

There were but few who complied with this requisition. The landholders in general said that they had purchased their land from the Indians, the

original proprietors of the soil, who alone could have any title to it; that they had at great expense brought it from a state of nature under cultivation; had erected buildings for the accommodation of themselves and families, had defended them against a savage enemy, with whom they had been kept in a continual state of warfare; and that no person whatever could have a legal or equitable right to dispossess them. There being no prospect of any agreement between the parties, the courts were organized principally with a reference to a decision of these questions. The Council had appellate jurisdiction; most of the old members were removed, and others appointed by the Governor in their stead. Barefoote was made a Judge, Mason Chancellor, Chamberlayne Clerk and Prothonotary, Randolph, Attorney-General, and Sherlock, Provost, Marshall and Sheriff. Matters being thus arranged, Mason commenced a number of actions against the principal inhabitants of the several towns; and those persons who had accepted leases from Mason were selected for jurymen and witnesses. No defence was made to these actions, and judgment was uniformly rendered in favour of the plaintiff. Major William Vaughan of this town, who was one of the defendants, had the resolution to appeal to the King in Council, but the judgment against him was there affirmed. Mason was put in possession of the estates he had recovered by due course of law, but so strong was the popular prejudice against him, he

could neither keep the possession, nor sell them ; and their former owners after a short interruption continued to occupy them. Martyn, who had been treasurer under the former administration, was called upon for the fines and forfeitures he had received in his official capacity. His defence was, that he had paid out all the monies he had in his hands, by order of the President and Council, as he was in duty bound to do. Notwithstanding which, judgment was rendered against him for seventy one pounds and cost. And by a decree of the Court of Chancery, the members of the late Council were ordered to pay their proportion of said judgment. “ This decree was afterwards reversed by the King in Council.”

The government became extremely oppressive to the people ; and they determined to petition the King for redress of grievances. They accordingly drew up remonstrances, which were signed by the inhabitants of the several towns. They elected Nathaniel Weare, of Hampton, their agent for the purpose of presenting their petitions and enforcing them before the King in Council, and raised money by subscription to defray the expense. This business was conducted as privately as possible, lest the Governor should take some measures to frustrate their designs. Weare went to Boston and took passage from thence for England.

On the 10th of December the Governor and Council passed an order, which was published, requiring

and commanding “that all and singular the respective ministers within this province for the time being do, from and after the first day of January next ensuing, admit all persons, that are of suitable years, and not vicious and scandalous in their lives, unto the blessed sacrament of the Lord’s supper, and their children unto baptism. And if any person shall desire to receive the sacrament of the Lord’s supper, or their children to be baptized according to the liturgy of the church of England, that it be done accordingly in pursuance of the laws of the realm of England, and his Majesty’s command to the Massachusetts’ government. And if any minister shall refuse so to do, being thereto duly required, he shall incur the penalty of the statutes in that case made and provided, and the inhabitants are freed from paying any duties to the said minister.” For what purpose this order was made it is difficult to apprehend. There were not at this time any ministers in the province, who were episcopally ordained; and no others were authorized by law to officiate in the church.

Under pretence of preventing disturbances by unlawful assemblies and meetings to the terror of his Majesty’s subjects, Cranfield issued an order “forbidding the trustees or overseers of the several and respective towns or others to call any public meeting about any town business, or any other pretence whatever, without leave first obtained from the Justices of the Peace of said town, upon just

representation of the necessariness of such town or public meeting, upon such penalty as the law directs to be inflicted upon unlawful assemblies;" which order was directed to the constable of Portsmouth to be published.

1684.

Cranfield was greatly disappointed in all his schemes of enriching himself by his office. The fines and forfeitures did not amount to much—and he could obtain nothing from Mason, nor realize any thing from his mortgage. And although he could expect no favour from an assembly on account of any personal attachment to himself, he determined to call one, and attempt to raise money by their means under pretence of its being necessary to put the province in a proper state of defence, and to guard it against invasion in case of a war, of which a vague rumour had been spread. The General Court met at Great-Island, where the Governor resided, on the 14th day of January. The Representatives from this town were Richard Waldron, jun. who was chosen Speaker, Philip Lewis, and John Pickering. The Governor had prepared a bill for raising money for the defence of the province and other necessary charges of government; which was passed by the Council, and sent to the other house for their concurrence. They debated upon it sometime, and adjourned to the morning; when they negatived it,

and in that state returned it to the Governor ; who was greatly enraged at this proceeding, and immediately dissolved them.

Major Vaughan had accompanied Mr. Weare to Boston, and undertook to procure affidavits on his return to support the petitions, which had been forwarded to the King. But Cranfield, having some suspicion of his design, caused him to be apprehended immediately on his arrival in this town, and brought before him for examination. He enquired of Vaughan for what purpose he went to Boston, and what affidavits he desired to have taken. Vaughan replied that he went on his own business, and the affidavits related to his cause with Mason. The Governor treated him with opprobrious language, and required him to give bonds for his good behaviour ; but Vaughan refused, declaring that as he had broken no law, he would not find sureties for his good behaviour. Whereupon Cranfield ordered him to be committed to gaol, and signed his mittimus with his own hand, the 6th day of February.

Vaughan continued imprisoned about nine months.

A small vessel belonging to George Janvrin had been seized by the collector of the port, for a breach of some of the laws of trade. A number of persons took forcible possession of her by night, and carried her out of the harbour. A prosecution was instituted on account of it, and upon the trial the owner swore, that she had been carried off without his knowledge. Strong suspi-

cions arose that he had sworn falsely ; however he settled the matter with Cranfield and Randolph, and all legal proceedings were stopped. But as Mr. Janvrin was a member of Mr. Moody's church, it was thought necessary for the honour of the church, that enquiry should be made respecting the matter. Mr. Moody applied to the Governor for evidence against the offender ; but Cranfield informed him that the action had been settled to his satisfaction, and forbade Mr. Moody's instituting any enquiry respecting it before the church. Notwithstanding which, Mr. Moody preached a sermon upon the evil of false swearing ; several church-meetings were held upon the occasion ; the person suspected was brought before them, and charged with the crime, which he at length acknowledged and made a public confession of it. Cranfield was extremely irritated against Mr. Moody for his conduct in this affair, and determined to prosecute him for not conforming to the modes of worship, prescribed in the book of common prayer, and administering the sacraments, as required by the English statutes of uniformity. In pursuance of which design Cranfield sent Moody a written notice by the hands of the sheriff on the 5th day of February, that on the next Sunday, he, with Mason and Hinkes, intended to partake of the Lord's supper ; requiring him to administer the same according to the liturgy of the church of England. Moody refused to comply with this order. In consequence of which Joseph Rayn, the King's

Attorney, by direction of Cranfield, filed an information against Moody before the Court of Sessions. "for refusing to administer the sacrament of the Lord's supper according to the manner and form set forth in the book of common prayer; and for obstinately and wilfully using some other form, than is ordained by law." Moody was arraigned upon the information, and stated in his defence, that the statutes of uniformity were not in force in this country; and as he was not episcopally ordained, he was not such a minister, as those statutes contemplated. He was however convicted, and sentenced to be imprisoned six months without bail or mainprize; and on the 6th of February was committed to gaol at Great-Island. His mittimus was under the hands and seals of Walter Barefoote, Peter Coffin, Henry Green, and Henry Robie. Two of the Justices of the Court, namely, Nathaniel Fryer and Thomas Edgerly, did not assent to his conviction, and were soon afterwards removed from office. Moody was kept in confinement in the house of Captain Elias Stileman (which was occupied as a gaol) thirteen weeks, having been indulged with the liberty of the yard; at the expiration of that time he was released, through the solicitation of his friends; but with an injunction not to preach again in the province on penalty of farther imprisonment. He removed to Boston, and preached there several years.

Cranfield having found that he could not supply himself with money through the intervention of an assembly, undertook to raise it on his own authority by virtue of a clause in his commission empowering him with the Council in cases of emergency "to continue such taxes as had been formerly levied until a general assembly could be called."

To prepare the minds of the Council to assist him in this business, reports were industriously circulated that the eastern Indians were preparing for war, which would probably break out in the spring. A great *show* of preparation was made; every necessary precaution was taken; supplies of ammunition and other warlike stores were ordered; the alarm was spread, and every method adopted to convince the people of the Governor's anxiety to provide for their safety.

The Council met on the 14th of February, having stated the dangers to which the province was exposed, and the necessity of being prepared to meet them, they passed an order for continuing "all such taxes and impositions as have been formerly laid upon the inhabitants, commanding and requiring all and singular the constables and collectors forthwith to perform their duty in levying and collecting the same, and paying it into the treasury."

Before this money could be collected, the Governor received a letter from the Lords of Trade directing him not to raise money from the people, unless by grant of an assembly. This greatly embar-

passed him ; it would expose him to censure, if he proceeded contrary to his instructions, and he had but little hopes of succeeding if he followed them. He issued writs for the choice of Representatives, and the Assembly met on the 27th day of May. Finding it composed principally of persons who were members of the former Assembly, and with whom he had had some personal altercations, he thought it improbable that they would comply with his request and vote to raise the money wanted. He immediately dissolved them.

Not long after this the Governor was obliged to call another Assembly. The West-Indies and Southern coasts of America were greatly infested with pirates. The King had issued orders to the several Governors and Colonial Assemblies directing them to pass laws and adopt other necessary measures for the suppression of piracy and robbery on the high seas. In pursuance of these orders Cranfield issued his warrants for calling an assembly, which met on the 22d day of July : and having passed the acts required in the orders from the King, the Governor dissolved them without their acting upon any other business. Various attempts were made to collect the taxes according to the order of the Governor and Council, but without success.

1685.

The complaints which had been exhibited against Cranfield were referred to a committee of the Lords of Trade and Plantations, who heard the parties and made their report to the King in Council, on the 27th day of March, “That Cranfield had not pursued his instructions with respect to Mason’s claims in the province, but that he had caused courts to be held, and permitted titles of land to be decided, and unreasonable costs to be allowed, without first representing the particular cases to your Majesty. That his determining the price and value of coins was an assumption of power, and an encroachment upon the royal prerogative.” Which report was approved by the King on the 8th day of April, and signified to Cranfield by the Lords of Trade by command of the King. Vaughan had likewise a right of appeal allowed him in all his actions, provided he claimed the same within a fortnight, which he accordingly did.

During these proceedings in England, Cranfield, through his agent, obtained leave of absence from the province, and as soon as he received information of the decree against him, he embarked privately for Jamaica, whence he took passage for England, and never returned again to New-Hampshire.

Cranfield had accepted the government with an expectation of accumulating a large estate ; and he used very unjustifiable means to effect his purpose.

But he was greatly disappointed. His temper, naturally irritable, was easily excited by opposition ; the arbitrary manner in which he exercised his authority, had a tendency to render him unpopular, and he was continually engaged in altercations with the people. He indulged his vindictive disposition in seeking revenge whenever an opportunity offered. On his arrival in England he was appointed Collector of Barbadoes, and in the execution of that office, he was particularly attentive and civil to every person he met there belonging to this place.

After Cranfield left the government the administration devolved on Barefoote, who was deputy Governor or President of the Council.

1686.

Mason had not yet succeeded in retaining possession of any of the cultivated lands, but he still expected to substantiate his claim to the unimproved part of the province. Jonathan Tyng, with several other persons, purchased of the Indians a tract of land six miles wide, lying on both sides the Merrimack river, extending from Souhegan river to Winnipiseogee lake. To complete their title they obtained from Mason, on the 16th of April, a deed confirming the grant, in which he reserved an annual rent of ten shillings. "This was called the million acre purchase," but none of the lands, included in it are now held under this grant. On the

15th of May, Mason farmed out to Hezekiah Usher all the ores and minerals within the province, reserving one quarter part of the royal ores, and one seventeenth part of the baser kinds. But Usher derived no advantage from this grant. No ore excepting iron has been discovered in New-Hampshire, and wherever that has been found, the owners of the soil have always claimed the exclusive right to it.

Notwithstanding the directions to Cranfield from the Lords of Trade, that all proceedings in law relating to Mason's title should cease until the decision of Vaughan's appeal, Mason made another attempt with Barefoote's assistance to carry the judgments he had recovered into execution, but without success; it produced some personal encounters with the inhabitants, in which he was treated with great severity and without much respect.

In the course of the spring he again embarked for England, to attend the trial of his actions against Vaughan, which were then pending before the Lords of Trade. Barefoote's administration was very short. He was superseded by Joseph Dudley, who was appointed President of New-England, which included the government of Massachusetts, New-Hampshire, Maine, and Narrhagansett, called likewise King's Province. This form of government went into operation on the 25th day of May. Robert Mason and John Hinkes, both of this place,

were of the Council. After Mr. Moody's removal, the town had been destitute of a constant supply in the ministry, but had only occasional preaching as opportunities offered. On the 14th of June they sent Captain John Pickering and Mr. Samuel Keais to inform him that, "considering his former obligation to the town and the towns to him, the cause of his removal being taken away, the town doth desire and expect his return, on the terms he formerly was settled for his future maintenance." Mr. Moody's answer was not explicit, and on the 29th of October they contracted with the Rev. Gilbert Laurie, who had been preaching here, to continue with them six months longer, for which they agreed to "pay him thirty-six pounds, and the expense of removing from Boston, and to provide convenient house-room for himself and family during said time."

A hearing was had on Vaughan's appeal before a committee of the Lords of Trade and Plantations, who made their report in Mason's favour; and on the 19th of November the King was pleased to "approve of their Lordships' opinion and report, and to order the said verdict and judgment given in his Majesty's Courts in New-Hampshire, in New-England, at the suit of Robert Mason, Esq. as proprietor of that province, for certain lands and tenements in Portsmouth, in said province be ratified and affirmed, and they are hereby ratified and affirmed accordingly." It had long been the intention of the King to unite all the Colonial govern-

ments in this country under one Governor-General. The design was to introduce the alteration so gradually as not to excite any alarm, and the appointment of Mr. Dudley was considered as one step towards it.

On the 30th of December Sir Edmund Andross, who had been Governor of New-York, arrived with a commission appointing him Captain-General and Governor in Chief of New-England. The Governor and Council were invested with full powers to make laws, impose taxes, and appropriate the money as they should think necessary. The Council was numerous; seven were necessary to form a board, five of whom made a quorum; and the Governor generally selected such, as were most subservient to his wishes.

1687.

After the decision of Mason's actions against Vaughan, he returned again to this town, with an intention to have his executions levied according to law. He had however to encounter difficulties, which he had not anticipated. The new government viewed with a jealous eye the extensive claim of Mason, and was desirous of dividing the territory amongst themselves. The Courts refused to issue executions on the judgments he had formerly recovered; and as the Governor and Council were authorized to grant lands, on such terms, and sub-

ject to such quit rents, as should be appointed by the King ; it was held that Mason's leases were not valid. Every new difficulty confirmed the people in their opinion that his title was defective ; and served to increase their opposition to him.

1688.

After a long contest with the Courts in New-Hampshire, Mason found that he could not obtain his writs of possession and executions on the judgments he had recovered : he therefore applied to Dudley, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, whose jurisdiction extended over the whole territory, for a writ of certiorari to remove those actions into that Court. The Chief Justice granted the writ, which issued on the 18th of July, directed to the Judges of New-Hampshire, returnable before the Supreme Court at Boston. But Mason's death put a stop to all further proceedings. He was summoned to attend the Governor as one of his Council, and on his journey from New-York to Albany he died at Esopus, in the 59th year of his age. He left two sons, John and Robert.

1689.

The spirit of the revolution, which introduced the Prince of Orange into England, extended to this country. The people harrassed and fatigued with

continual changes and impositions, rejoiced at an opportunity of freeing themselves from a government, which had been so extremely oppressive to them. Andross had returned to Boston a zealous supporter of King James, and he treated with severity all, who were attached to the other party. Reports were circulated that he intended to introduce Popery, and that his guards would massacre those, who opposed him. These reports, however unfounded, excited great alarm; the inhabitants rose in arms, seized the Governor and his principal adherents, and committed them to prison, and afterwards sent them to England, as state-prisoners, to abide the orders of the King. In this unsettled state of affairs it was proposed to call a convention to advise in what manner to proceed, and to agree upon some form of government. Major William Vaughan, Richard Waldron, Nathaniel Fryer, Robert Elliot, Thomas Corbett and Captain John Pickering were chosen deputies from this town.

Besides these perplexities and distresses, the people had to encounter others of a different kind. The Indians had for some time been troublesome, and made depredations on those settlements, which were most exposed. This year the war broke out with great fury. The massacre at Major Waldron's, and some other garrison-houses at Dover, took place with circumstances of unparalleled cruelties; but this town escaped. Finding it necessary to make some exertions to check the savages, scouting par-

ties were sent out from several towns. One from this place under Captain Wincol marched to Winnipiseogee lake, where they killed one or two Indians and destroyed their corn.

Captain John Pickering, an influential man in the town, went with a company of armed men to the house of Chamberlayne, the late Secretary of the province and Clerk of the Superior Court, and demanded the records and files, which were in his possession. Chamberlayne refused to deliver them without orders from some proper authority or indemnity. Pickering took them by force and carried them to the house of Major Joseph Hammond in Kittery, where he concealed them.

1690.

The Convention recommended a reunion with Massachusetts, until the King's pleasure should be known. Application was made to that government and readily agreed to ; the union took place on the 12th of March. Mr. Richard Waldron and Captain John Pickering were elected and sent Representatives to the General Court.

The town "voted that Mr. William Vaughan, Mr. Richard Martyn, and Mr. Nathaniel Fryer, who were formerly chosen by this town and confirmed as Magistrates by the Governor and Council of Massachusetts' Bay, be the persons that are to attend that work according to their oaths taken."

The Indians continued the war with unabated zeal. They made an attack on Fox Point where they burned several houses, killed fourteen people and carried away six captives. The settlements on the frontiers suffered most. Forty persons were killed in one week between Lamprey river and Amesbury. On the 29th of November the Indians requested a cessation of hostilities; they brought in ten captives and agreed upon a truce until the 1st of the next May.

The Faulkland, a fifty-four gun ship, was built here by order of the British government.

1691.

The town at a general meeting held the 30th of March, voted to give the Rev. John Cotton (son of Rev. Seaborn Cotton of Hampton) a call to settle here in the ministry, and offered him eighty pounds per year.

Mr. Moody having seen the foregoing vote, wrote to the town on the 29th of May, informing them that he would return, if it were their wish; that they had been hasty in giving the call to Mr. Cotton, but whether he returned or not, he should do every thing in his power to promote their welfare. He had previously written to the church, stating his willingness to return and renew his pastoral relation with them if it were thought best, and proposed that a council should be called to advise them

how to proceed. The selectmen did not think proper to call a town-meeting to lay this letter before them, but wrote Mr. Moody, that they had consulted many individuals respecting it; that they did not see the necessity of a council; that his leaving them destitute so many years, especially after their repeated invitations to him to return, was evidence of his intention of quitting them altogether; and that since the town had given a call to Mr. Cotton, they were not at liberty to act, until they had received his answer.

Mr. Cotton advised them to make another application to Mr. Moody, and if he did not accept this invitation, "they might honestly provide for themselves such person as they judge fittest to supply the place of the ministry here." The town accordingly voted on the 8th of October to send another messenger to Mr. Moody and request his return, and to inform him "that in consequence of his absence, part of the town had withdrawn and provided themselves with a minister, and that they were not able to maintain a minister as they had formerly done. Notwithstanding which, they engage, provided he return forthwith, to pay him eighty pounds a year, and let him have the use of the glebe and parsonage house. But if he do not take up with the above propositions, the church and town are resolved to concern themselves no further with Mr. Moody, but look upon ourselves clear from him and he from us."

At the same meeting they confirmed their former vote respecting Mr. Cotton, and empowered the selectmen to renew their invitation to him ; “ provided Mr. Moody did not come within a fortnight from that time and remain here in supplying the place of the ministry as formerly.”

Mr. Moody thought the intervention of a council of great importance, and was unwilling to return without their advice. The town and church being of a contrary opinion a council was not called, and Mr. Moody concluded to remain at Boston. Mr. Cotton came to this town and preached here three months. He was afterward settled at Hampton, as successor of his father.

The first planters of Massachusetts left their native country, for the sake of enjoying here a greater degree of civil and religious liberty, than they were indulged with in England. The settlers of New-Hampshire were influenced by very different motives. Captain Smith, in the account he published of New-England, speaks highly of the importance of the fisheries, and concludes his observations in the following manner : “ Therefore, honourable and worthy countrymen, let not the meanness of the word *fish* distaste you, for it will afford you as good gold as the mines of Potosi and Guiana ; with less hazard and charge, and more certainty and facility.” Many of the first settlers of New-Hampshire confirmed the truth of this remark. They diligently

pursued the business, which naturally introduced other branches of commerce, and led to opulence.

A reverend divine, preaching against the depravity of the times said, "you have forsaken the pious habits of your forefathers, who left the ease and comfort which they possessed in their native land, and came to this howling wilderness to enjoy without molestation the exercise of their pure principles of religion." One of the congregation interrupted him; Sir, you entirely mistake the matter; our ancestors did not come here on account of their religion, but to fish and trade.

John Tufton Mason, having died without issue, the title to the estate in New-Hampshire descended and came to his brother, Robert Tufton Mason, who suffered a fine and recovery in the Court of King's Bench in England, for the purpose of docking the entail; and on the 27th day of April he sold his title to the lands in New-Hampshire, to Samuel Allen of London, merchant, for seven hundred and fifty pounds.

Allen applied to the King to recognize his title, and at the same time solicited the appointment of Governor of the province. The inhabitants held another convention by deputies, and petitioned the King to be reannexed to Massachusetts; but the importunity and influence of Allen, prevented the union.

"A party of Indians came from the Eastward in canoes to Sandy-Beach, where they killed and cap-

tured twenty-one persons ; Captain Sherburne of this place, a worthy officer, was killed by them at the Eastward.”

1692.

On the 25th of January the town of York was destroyed. Most of the houses were unguarded, and were surrounded by the Indians, who fired a gun as a signal, upon which the inhabitants ran to their doors, and about fifty of them were killed on the spot, and nearly an hundred captured. The minister, Shubael Dummer, who was greatly esteemed, was shot dead as he was mounting his horse at his door, and his wife and family were made prisoners. They set fire to the houses, four fortified houses only holding out against them. A party of men were sent from this town to their assistance, but arrived too late to afford relief or retake the captives.

Whether Mr. Moody made any further overtures to the town is uncertain ; but they relaxed from their determination to have no further connexion with him. On the 18th of January they voted, “That whereas our Reverend Pastor, Mr. Joshua Moody, was for a long time ago driven from us, and the troublesomeness of the times having hitherto hindered his return, the town doth now invite him to return and supply his place as formerly ; and on that condition, the town doth engage to make

good his salary in every respect as formerly, so long as said Mr. Moody doth supply the place of the ministry here."

Notwithstanding the application of the inhabitants to be united with Massachusetts, New-Hampshire was established as a separate government, and Allen obtained the appointment of Governor. His commission was dated the 1st of March, and his son-in-law, John Usher, was appointed Lieutenant Governor, with full power to execute the office in the Governor's absence; for which services Allen promised to pay him 250*l.* per year. Usher was peculiarly disagreeable to the people, not only on account of his connexion with Allen, but because he had been an active agent under Andross in carrying the arbitrary measures he had adopted into effect.

Usher arrived here and published his commission on the 13th day of August. He immediately undertook the administration of the government much against the wishes of the people. One of his first acts was an attempt to obtain possession of the papers relating to Mason's suits. He ordered Pickering to be brought before him, and demanded the record and files, which he had forcibly taken from Chamberlayne. Pickering refused to deliver them, or give information where they were, unless to the Assembly or to some person authorized by them to receive them; upon which the Lieutenant Governor ordered him to be imprisoned. After having been detained in prison some time he submitted, and delivered them to the Secretary by Usher's order.

The small-pox made its appearance this year ; it was communicated from cotton, imported from the West-Indies. But few persons were acquainted with the disorder, and as none knew the proper method of treating it, a great mortality ensued. Almost every person, who was attacked with it, fell a victim to the fatal disease.

At a General Assembly held at Portsmouth on the second Tuesday of October, several of the representatives refused to take the oaths, appointed by act of Parliament, instead of the oaths of allegiance and supremacy according to the custom of England, by swearing upon the Bible. The Council “ordered that the oaths be administered to such of the Assembly, as have so refused, by lifting up of their hands, considering the present troubles and circumstances of affairs.” John Hinkes, Esq. one of the Council, entered his dissent from the above said order, in the manner of administering the oath, and being one of the commissioners appointed in the dedimus to administer the oaths, he refused to act. His name was erased from the commission, and that of Nathaniel Fryer was inserted in its stead.

Mr. Richard Martyn, Captain Elias Stileman, and Captain John Pickering were the representatives of this town. The Assembly made choice of Richard Martyn for their speaker, and presented him to the Lieutenant Governor, who approved of the choice.

1693.

The inhabitants of Great-Island, on the 10th of March, petitioned the Lieutenant Governor and Council to be made a township by themselves. It was ordered that the selectmen of Portsmouth be served with a copy of said petition, and that they be notified to attend on Friday next, to shew cause why the petition should not be granted, and likewise that they come prepared to shew how they came to be a town, and what their rights and immunities are.

The selectmen appeared before the Governor and Council on the 17th day of March, and said, "The town has been reputed so—believe there may be a grant constituting Portsmouth a town, but they know not where it is. The bounds were laid out by the Massachusetts, and as having enjoyed it many years, pray it may still be continued as a town." The Council determined that Great-Island should be a township and divided from the Bank, provided it is able to support itself.—On the question that Sandy-Beach and Little-Harbour be added, yeas 3, nays 3, and Peter Coffin yea if all parties consent. The Lieutenant Governor then declared it should be a town, and that he would make it so, separate from the Bank.

On the 30th of May the grant to make Great-Island a town was prepared and engrossed, and read in Council, none making any objection why the

same should not be signed and sealed, save Major Vaughan, who desired his dissent might be entered against the passing the same, for that he thinks the King's commission gives liberty to the Lieutenant Governor to make towns, but not to divide towns; whereupon the Lieutenant Governor in Council signed and executed the same grant. The township thus granted was called New-Castle.

The beginning of this year the Rev. Mr. Moody returned to this town and resumed his pastoral care of the church and people here.

The Indians had not been so troublesome this year, as formerly. Having lost several of their leaders, they were desirous of some respite from the fatigues of war. On the 11th of August they sent to the officers of the fort at Pemaquid, proposals for peace, which were accepted; and they delivered hostages for the faithful performance of the terms of it on their part. The war had been peculiarly distressing to the inhabitants of New-Hampshire, as well as to their neighbours of the other provinces. Besides the loss of lives, and the continual expense attending a state of war, they were interrupted in their agricultural pursuits; in consequence of which, provisions had become very scarce and dear: and their trade, which consisted chiefly of lumber, was nearly destroyed. The news of peace was therefore very acceptable to them.

1694.

The peace was of short duration. The Indians, instigated by the French in Canada, determined on a renewal of hostilities, and according to their usual practice gave no cause of suspicion, until they were ready to strike the blow. The settlements on Oyster river were fixed on, as the most suitable place for the attack. Accordingly two hundred and fifty Indians, commanded by Villieu, a French officer, arrived at their place of destination, undiscovered, on the evening of the 17th of July; and, having placed a small party in ambush near every house on both sides the river, made their attack unexpectedly early in the morning. Some of the garrison houses were defended with great gallantry, at which the enemy were repulsed; but they succeeded in killing and capturing nearly one hundred persons, and in burning about twenty houses. They retreated the next day and carried off their prisoners, and the scalps of those, they had killed.

A small party crossed Piscataqua river and came to the farm of Mrs. Ursula Cutt, the widow of the late President Cutt, and there killed her, and three men who were at work for her, making, hay on her farm; which was situated about two miles above the bank, and was cultivated with much elegance and taste.

Colonel Richard Waldron and his wife, with their son, were providentially saved from falling into the hands of this party. They were just preparing to go by water to Mrs. Cutt's, where they were engaged to dine, but were prevented by the arrival of some friends at their house : whilst at dinner they heard of her death.

1695.

In the month of July the Indians killed two men at Exeter : which is the only instance of their making inroads into the province the present year.

Usher had repeatedly applied to the Assembly for grants of money ; but they always evaded his requests by pleading poverty, the exposed situation of the province, and the difficulty they had to raise sufficient funds for its defence. He was also disappointed of the stipend he expected from Allen. He drew upon him for the amount of his salary, but his bills came back protested. He had been very attentive to Allen's interest, and had incurred considerable expense in support of his claims. But seeing no prospect of remuneration, he requested Allen to come over and take charge of the government himself, and in the mean time to procure some other person to be appointed Lieutenant Governor in his stead. He was anticipated in this last request. He had suspended Hinkes, Waldron, and Vaughan as Counsellors, which excited great irritation among

the people. By way of retaliation they petitioned the King for Usher's removal, and recommended William Partridge for his successor. This was done with so much secrecy, that Usher had no suspicion of their designs. Partridge was a native of this town and very popular. He was bred a shipwright, and was distinguished for his skill in naval architecture and other mechanic arts. He had been a contractor for purchasing masts and timber for the navy, and had been otherwise largely engaged in trade; which had procured him an acquaintance with many influential persons in England. Having made the necessary preparations for the voyage, he sailed for that country.

1696.

This year the Indians began their predatory incursions in the spring. The beginning of May they killed and scalped John Church near his own house at Cochecho. Their most fatal attack was made at the plains in this town on the 26th day of June. The party came from York to Sandy-Beach in canoes, which they secreted among the bushes the night preceding. They were at their stations before daylight, and early in the morning made an assault on five houses at the same time. The people ran out as soon as the alarm was given, and the Indians killed fourteen persons; one, whom they supposed was dead, and had scalped, afterwards

recovered. They took four prisoners, and having plundered the houses, they set them on fire and retreated through great swamp about four or five miles, where they stopped on the declivity of a hill to prepare some breakfast ; which has ever since retained the name of Breakfast-Hill.

A company of militia, under the command of Captain Shackford and Lieutenant Libbey, immediately pursued and overtook them in this situation. The Indians had placed their captives above them on the hill to receive the fire in case they should be attacked. The militia rushed upon them, rescued the prisoners and the plunder, but the enemy escaped by concealing themselves in the swamp till night, when they took possession of their canoes. A party was sent out in boats, which were arranged in a line to intercept them in their passage to the Eastward ; the Captain being too sanguine, gave orders to fire before the enemy were within reach of their guns, upon which they altered their course and escaped by going round the Isle-of-Shoals.

On the 26th of July three persons were killed at Dover, as they returned from public worship, and three others were taken prisoners.

The Bedford Galley of 32 guns was built here for the British government.

The French had a small fleet at St. Johns under command of Iberville, an experienced officer, and there captured the English ship, Newport. They then proceeded to Pemaquid, where they were

joined by two hundred Indians under the Baron St. Castine. The fort at Pemaquid was commanded by Captain Chubb, which he surrendered to the French, and the garrison was sent to Boston as prisoners of war to be exchanged for as many French and Indian prisoners. It was expected that the enemy would immediately proceed westward as far as Piscataqua river. Five hundred men, under command of Colonel Church, were sent without delay from Boston to Portsmouth to arrest their progress, but after destroying the fort at Pemaquid, the enemy returned to the Eastward.

Lieutenant Governor Stoughton ordered Colonel Church to embark his men at Portsmouth on board of small vessels, and range along the eastern shore in search of the enemy.

1697.

Charles Story, having received the appointment of Judge of the Admiralty for this province, embarked at England for this country. On the 19th of January, not long after his arrival here, he produced his commission before the Council, which was read and approved, and ordered to be recorded. On the same day he was appointed by the Council their Clerk and Secretary of the province. Having taken the necessary oaths, the province records and files were committed to his care. The Council convened again on the first of February, but Mr.

Story did not attend. They then ordered a boat to be sent to New-Castle for him immediately. He appeared the next day, and the President reprimanded him for his neglect. Story answered "with lofty indecent carriage towards the Council" and said he had been cautioned against acting in those offices. The late Lieutenant Governor, Usher, was suspected of being his adviser; but he declined giving any information, who it was. The Council then demanded of him the books and papers, which had been delivered to him; but he peremptorily refused to deliver them. Whereupon the Council ordered the constable to take him into custody; and issued a warrant, directed to the sheriff and to Captain John Pickering, requiring and empowering them to take with them sufficient assistance, and "to make diligent search in any houses, rooms, closets, chests, trunks, or other places within this province for the above said books and papers, or any other books, or papers, or records belonging to this province, and the same when found, to bring to the President and Council." The Sheriff, by virtue of this warrant, in a short time brought in the records and files, belonging to the Council and Assembly, which had been delivered to Mr. Story. He was again brought before the Council, and the President informed him that they had obtained possession of their books and papers, which had been in his custody, notwithstanding his endeavours to prevent them, and since he had so peremptorily refused to serve the

the King in this province in the office of Secretary and Clerk of the Council, to which he had so lately been admitted, and thereby dismissed himself, the President and Council also dismiss him." But the President also told him "that as to his office of Judge of the Admiralty within this province, the Council would do what was proper for them in countenancing and assisting him in the execution of that office according to his commission." So Mr. Story was dismissed. Henry Penny, who was removed at the time Story was appointed, was reappointed Secretary of the province and Clerk of the Council.

Partridge succeeded in obtaining the office of Lieutenant Governor, and was invested with the supreme command in Allen's absence. His commission contained a full and entire revocation of Usher's authority as Lieutenant Governor, and the President and Council were to administer the government, until the Lieutenant Governor should be qualified to act. Hinkes was President of the Council, and a copy of Allen's commission, and instructions were sent to him.

Partridge returned to this country the beginning of the present year, but did not immediately publish his commission. His appointment was wholly unexpected to Usher, who endeavoured to excite opposition to the government. He made a long address to the people at Hampton one Sunday, in the time of public worship before the sermon, on the state of public affairs; and requested the civil

and military officers, and the two companies of militia of the town under arms to meet him the next morning. But failing in his attempt, he left the province. The President and Council issued a proclamation, stating the revocation of Usher's power, and commanding all persons to submit to their authority. They removed Lieutenant Colonel Packer and Major Smith from their command in the militia, and placed the whole under the command of Major Vaughan. They commanded Vaughan, with as many men as he could get mounted, to march to Hampton and Exeter, and to cause their proclamation to be published at each of those places ; and if he met with any persons, who were giving any disturbance to government, to seize and secure them.

On the 8th of June the President of the Council opened the General Assembly with a speech. Those Counsellors, who had been suspended by Usher, took their seats. Captain John Pickering was appointed King's Attorney, and Major William Vaughan, Recorder. The Assembly ordered the records and files, which Pickering had taken from Chamberlayne, and which Usher had compelled him to relinquish, to be deposited in the Recorder's office, subject to the control of the General Court.

Usher was indefatigable in whatever he undertook ; he resented very highly the treatment he had received in New-Hampshire, and sent Story, the late Secretary, to England with complaints to the Lords of Trade, against the President and Council.

A party of Indians lay in ambush near Exeter on the 10th day of June with intention to make assault upon the town the next morning. A gun was fired to frighten some women and children, who had gone into a field to gather strawberries, without a guard and contrary to the advice of their friends; the inhabitants immediately took the alarm and met together under arms. The Indians supposed they were discovered and made a precipitate retreat, after having killed one person, wounded another, and taken a child prisoner. On the 4th of July they killed Major Frost at Kittery. These were the only instances of mischief done by them this year.

Mr. Moody, the minister of this town was naturally of a robust constitution; but from too close application to his studies, and to the discharge of his parochial duties, he contracted some disorders, which obliged him to repair to Boston for medical aid. He had been there but a short time before he fell a victim to his disease. He died on Sunday the 4th day of July in the sixty-fifth year of his age. Great harmony subsisted between him and his parish, before he was driven away by Cranfield's persecution, and after his return until his death; although many of his parishioners were hurt, that he did not immediately return after the cause of his absence was removed. He was the son of William Moody of Newbury; was graduated at Harvard College in 1653, and was one of the fellows of that institution.

On the death of President Rogers in 1684, he was invited to take the charge of the College, which he declined. Mr. Moody possessed a very benevolent disposition, and was ready to do good to all men, according to his ability and opportunity. A remarkable instance occurred, whilst he resided in Boston. He was greatly opposed to the fanaticism, which prevailed at the time of the Salem witchcraft, and deluded so many people. Mr. English and his wife were accused, and because the gaol in Salem was full, they were sent to Boston for confinement, until the time of their trial. They had permission to go abroad by day, but lodged in the gaol. The day before they were to be removed to Salem for trial, Mr. Moody invited them to attend public worship, and preached from the text, "when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another." In his sermon, he justified the attempt to avoid prosecution, where the courts of law were perverted to iniquitous purposes, and justice could not be obtained. He visited English and his wife in prison after the service, and told them plainly, that their lives were in danger, and advised them to escape. He procured letters for them to the Governor of New-York, who received them at his own house and treated them with great attention. They continued in New-York about a year, and returned to Salem after the phrenzy had subsided. By this kind interference of Mr. Moody, in defiance of popular prejudice, he probably preserved this worthy cou-

ple from a premature death by the hand of the executioner. He was applauded for the act by men of discernment, but felt the resentment of the infatuated multitude.

On the 19th day of July the town, by their committee, invited Mr. Nathaniel Rogers, son of John Rogers, late President of Harvard College, to settle with them in the work of the ministry, and offered him, besides the use of the glebe and parsonage, one hundred pounds, which terms he accepted.

Richard, Earl of Bellomont, had been appointed Governor of New-York, Massachusetts, and New-Hampshire, but remained still in England. The Lords of Trade in answer to Usher's complaint, directed him to continue in the exercise of his office of Lieutenant Governor of New-Hampshire, until Partridge should qualify himself, or the Earl should arrive. At the same time they sent him the treaty which had been agreed on by the commissioners at Ryswick, whereby a general peace had been established in Europe. He received these communications on the 10th of December, and as soon as possible visited the province for the purpose of reassuming the reins of government, after nearly one year's absence. On the 13th of December he published the orders he had received from the Lords of Trade, and caused proclamation to be made of the peace with the usual solemnities. The next morning Partridge, by advice of his friends, published his commission in due form, took the oaths

prescribed by law, and immediately entered on the duties of this office. Usher was disappointed, chagrined, and mortified, and returned to Boston without delay.

1698.

An assembly was summoned which met on the 3d of January. The Representatives from this town were John Pickering, Samuel Penhallow, and Samuel Keais. They voted an address to the Lords of Trade, in which, among other things, they expressed their grateful acknowledgments to the King for his goodness in appointing one of their own inhabitants to the command of the province. Being informed that the Earl of Bellomont had arrived at New-York, they appointed Ichabod Plaisted, Esq. their agent, with orders to wait upon the Earl, and present him their congratulations on his appointment as Governor of this province, and on his safe arrival in this country, and to ascertain when he might be expected here.

In consequence of the general peace which had taken place between England, France, and the other Belligerent powers in Europe, Count Frontenac, the Governor of Canada, informed the Indians, that he could no longer assist them in carrying on the war against the English settlements in this country, but recommended to them to return their captives and make peace.

Lord Bellomont delayed his visit to this province a long time. In the interim, Governor Allen arrived here on the 15th of September, and concluded that his commission would continue in force until the Earl should arrive here and take upon himself the administration. He took the necessary oaths, and entered upon the duties of the office. On the 29th of November Usher took his seat in Council, which he claimed as Lieutenant Governor. This produced great altercation in the Council; and several of the members refused to sit with him because his commission was superseded by the appointment of Partridge. The Governor decided in favour of Usher, and refused to admit those Counsellors, whom Usher had formerly suspended; upon which Elliot withdrew himself from the board and was afterwards suspended by Allen.

1699.

A new Assembly met on the 5th of January; Joseph Smith of Hampton, and Kinsley Hall of Exeter, having been appointed Counsellors, appeared and took their seats. The Representatives from this town were the same as at the last election. Mr. Pickering was chosen speaker, and approved by the Governor. A violent contention took place in the Council as to Usher's right to a seat there, which was decided by a majority in his favour. The old Counsellors, except Fryer, refused to sit with him.

The Counsellors were appointed by a writ of mandamus from the King, but the Governor was authorized by his commission to suspend any of the members of the Council, whenever he should find just cause for so doing. If by any means the number should be reduced below seven, the Governor had a right to appoint out of the principal freeholders, inhabitants of the province, as many as will make up the number of the Council to be seven. And the persons so appointed, were to be Counsellors to all intents and purposes, until the King's pleasure respecting them should be known. The Governor appointed Sampson Sheafe of New-Castle, and Peter Weare of Hampton to make a quorum. Sheafe was appointed Secretary, Smith Treasurer, and William Ardell Sheriff. The Assembly voted to continue the impost and excise until November, but they ordered the money collected to be kept in the Treasury, until the arrival of the Earl of Bellomont. This irritated the Governor so much, that he immediately dissolved them. Allen was said to be of a mild disposition but greatly under the influence of Usher, who, it is supposed, excited him to these violent measures, to retaliate upon those, who had opposed him.

On the 7th of January the Indians came into Casco and entered into a treaty of peace. They delivered up those captives, who were able to travel in this inclement season and promised to restore the others in the spring.

On the third of May the Rev. Nathaniel Rogers was ordained to the work of the ministry and the charge of the church and congregation in this town.

The Earl of Bellomont arrived in New-Hampshire on the 31st of July ; and published his commission. The people were greatly elated with this change ; they now saw at the head of the government, a nobleman distinguished for his polite accomplishments and talents, and who had no interest in oppressing them.

Partridge had withdrawn from the Council during the contest under Allen's administration, but as soon as this change took place he resumed his office of Lieutenant Governor. The suspended Counselors were likewise admitted to their seats at the Council board.

The Governor issued his proclamation commanding all Justices of the Peace and Constables to continue in the exercise of their respective offices. Richard Jose was appointed Sheriff instead of ArdeU, and Charles Story Secretary, instead of Sheafe.

The Earl of Bellomont remained here about eighteen days, and upon his departure the administration devolved upon Partridge. Laws having been enacted for the new arrangement of the Courts of Law, the Lieutenant Governor and Council appointed John Hinkes Chief Justice of the Superior Court, and Peter Coffin, John Gerrish, and John Plaisted, Assistants. Richard Partridge, son of the Lieutenant Governor, was appointed Clerk.

1700.

The first Superior Court after the new appointment of Judges, was held on the 13th of February at the house of John Pickering, jun.

Allen caused several suits to be commenced for recovering possession of the lands he claimed in New-Hampshire, which were brought by appeal to the Superior Court, and at August term decided against him. He claimed an appeal to the King in Council, which was refused him. Allen then petitioned the King for liberty to appeal, which was granted, provided he prosecuted the same within eight months. About this time Samuel Penhallow, Esq. was appointed Collector of the port of Portsmouth.

1701.

At February term Theodore Atkinson was appointed Clerk of the Superior Court.

The Earl of Bellomont died at New-York on the 5th of March. Although he had remained but a short time in the province on his visit here, his easy manners, courteous deportment, and other pleasing accomplishments, had so much endeared him to the people, that his death was greatly lamented. It was likewise a subject of deep regret to the inhabitants of the other provinces under his command.

Allen employed Usher to take care of his appeal before the King in Council, and as security for what he already owed him, and to indemnify him for his expenses on this occasion, he mortgaged to him one half the province for fifteen hundred pounds.

1702.

The Assembly met on the 29th of May, and appointed Major Vaughan agent for the province, and gave him direction to defend the causes for the appellees, which were then pending before the King in Council upon Allen's appeal. They considered the public interested in these decisions, and made provision for defraying the expense. Funds were provided for the purpose, and their agent authorized to draw in case of emergency.

Whilst these suits were pending, King William died, and was succeeded by Queen Anne. She appointed Joseph Dudley, formerly President of New-England, Governor of Massachusetts and New-Hampshire, and he published his commission in this town on the 11th of July. The Assembly immediately established his salary by law, during his continuance in office.

On the trial of the appeals before the Queen in Council, the former judgments were affirmed, upon the ground that Allen had not proved that Mason was ever in possession of the lands. Allen, however, had permission to commence his actions anew

in the Courts of New-Hampshire to try his title to the lands, or for the quit rents for the same.

1703.

The peace which succeeded the treaty of Ryswick, continued but a short time. Contentions arose between the French and English as to the extent and boundaries of their provincial territories. The French sent missionaries among the Indians, and supplied them with arms and ammunition. They built a chapel at Norridgewalk for their use, which was under the superintendence of Father Sebastian Ralle, a Jesuit, who resided there. He was a man of great address, and by accommodating himself to their mode of life, obtained unbounded influence over them. He instructed them in those doctrines of the Catholic Church, which best served to keep them in subjection to him, and availed himself of their propensity to superstition to promote his own purpose. The Indians at Norridgewalk, and the neighbouring tribes, were entirely subject to his control, and he followed the directions of the Governor of Canada. Some suspicions of their hostile intentions had taken place, and Governor Dudley determined to visit the eastern country for the purpose of ascertaining the fact. On the 20th of June he proceeded to Casco, accompanied by some persons from both provinces, and there held a conference with the deputies from several tribes. They

assured him in their strong and figurative language, that “as high as the sun was above the earth, so far distant was their design of making the least breach of the peace,” and that “their union was firm as a mountain, and should continue as long as the sun and moon ;” and in token of their sincerity, presented him a belt of wampum. But notwithstanding all these fair promises, on the 10th of August, assisted by the French, they made an attack on the eastern settlements, and “killed and captured one hundred and thirty persons.” On the 17th of August they killed five persons at Hampton village. These attacks excited great alarm ; the women and children took refuge in the garrisons, and the men went armed to their labour ; troops of horse were stationed in this town, to be ready to pursue the enemy in case of another attack. A line of Pickets was established on the west side of the town, which extended from the mill-pond on the south, to the creek on the north, to defend against incursions of the enemy by land.

On the 26th of July, Usher obtained a second commission, appointing him Lieutenant Governor of New-Hampshire ; “but was restricted from interfering with the appointment of Judges or Juries, or otherwise in matters relating to the disputes between Allen and the inhabitants.” He returned to this country and took his seat in the Council on the 27th of October. Partridge was present, and the next day requested his dismissal on account of the ur-

gency of his private business, which was granted. He removed soon after to Newbury, and devoted the remainder of his days to mercantile transactions. Usher was very desirous of having the papers which Pickering had taken from Chamberlayne, deposited in the Secretary's office, and made use of all his address to procure them, but without effect. He supposed that all the papers relating to Mason's suits were among them. The Recorder was appointed by the Assembly and entirely under their control. He would not deliver any papers but by their directions. Usher applied to the Lords of Trade, and obtained their order for their removal to the Secretary's office, which he produced on the 4th of November. Penhallow was at this time Recorder, as well as Counsellor. Application was made to him for them, but he absolutely "refused to deliver them unless authorized by a vote of the General Court."

Late in December, Allen entered upon and took possession of all the common lands within the boundaries of the several townships, under pretence of license from the Queen; and he commenced his actions anew to determine his title to the improved lands.

1704.

Allen's suit was depending before the Superior Court at August term, and the Court was adjourned several times that Governor Dudley might be pres-

ent at the trial. The Governor however was taken sick on the road, and the trial proceeded without him. The Jury found a verdict for the defendant, and judgment was rendered thereon; from which Allen appealed to the Queen in Council. Both parties grew tired of this continual litigation, and propositions were made for a settlement; Allen offered to convey his right upon very advantageous terms.

The last of October, the Rev. Mr. Rogers' house, accidentally took fire in the night, and was entirely consumed together with most of his furniture. Mrs. Ellison, the aged mother of Mrs. Rogers, was so much burnt that she survived but a few weeks. A female infant child of Mr. Rogers, seventeen months old, and a negro woman, perished in the flames.

At a meeting of the selectmen on the 4th of November, they "agreed to give the Rev. Nathaniel Rogers, who, by the Providence of God, lost his house and substance by fire, eight pounds a year for house-rent till such time as he should be otherwise provided for.

1705.

On the 29th of April the town voted to assist Mr. Rogers in building a house upon his own land, and promised to give him one hundred and fifty pounds if he would relinquish all demands he might have

on the town for house-hire, in consequence of their former vote, to which Mr. Rogers agreed. At the same meeting the town voted to divide the twelve acres of the glebe, situated near the parsonage-house, into lots, and to lease out the same, appropriating the rents for the benefit of the minister, reserving convenient places for a meeting-house, court-house, alms-house, and burying-ground. And to this vote Mr. Rogers also gave his assent.

May 3d. A Convention of deputies from the several towns in the province met in this place to agree upon terms of settlement with Allen. After a short consultation they came to a determination, and presented their proposals to him, which he received for the purpose of examining, and taking into consideration. But these prospects of a settlement were cut off by the death of Allen. He died very suddenly on the 5th of May, in the seventieth year of his age, and left one son to inherit the contention; which would perhaps have been put to rest, if his life had been spared a few days longer.

Allen was a merchant of some eminence in London; and sustained an unblemished character, well established for probity and integrity. He was of a placid temper, rather unsocial and reserved, charitable in his disposition, and benevolent to such as were proper objects of his beneficence. He was induced for the sake of gain to enter into land speculations, but his hopes were delusive. Like those, who had pursued the same course before him, he

found his labours attended with perplexity and expense, without reaping any of the expected reward.

On the 4th of June the town voted, that the inhabitants of Greenland, in consideration of their numbers, distance they had to travel, and danger of passing to public worship, be paid out of the town stock their proportion of one hundred pounds a year, raised for the support of the minister, during their maintenance of an able minister amongst them, and no longer. The bounds of Greenland were fixed at the south side of Colonel Packer's farm.

1706.

Thomas Allen, the only son of Governor Allen, obtained permission of the Queen to commence the suits anew to settle the title to the lands in New-Hampshire. He conveyed one half the province to Sir Charles Hobby, and commenced his action of ejectment against Waldron at August term.

Since the renewal of hostilities the Indians in small parties hovered round the frontiers, doing mischief as opportunity offered. They kept the country in continual alarm, and eight or ten people were murdered by them at one house at Oyster river. The women of the neighbourhood, whose husbands were absent, assembled at a garrison-house, and having put on their husband's jackets and hats, defended the garrison bravely, when it was attacked, and obliged the enemy to retreat.

Colonel Schuyler, of Albany, informed Governor Dudley that a party of two hundred and seventy men were about to march from Canada to the frontiers of New-England, and it was uncertain where they would make their attack. They were first discovered at Dunstable, where they surprised and burned a garrison-house, in which were twenty soldiers ; and they extended their ravages on the frontiers of New-Hampshire as far as Piscataqua river.

Colonel Hilton marched from Exeter with sixty-four men, but for want of provisions was obliged to return without meeting the enemy. He was a brave and active officer, and on that account the Indians had determined to waylay and destroy him. A party for this purpose, were lurking about his garrison to observe the motion of his people. Ten of them went out with their scythes, and having laid their arms aside, began to mow. The Indians rushed suddenly upon them, killed four, wounded one, and took three captive, so that only two of the ten, escaped.

1707.

Colonel Hilton, with two hundred and twenty men, visited the frontiers in the spring ; but the weather being mild he could not traverse the woods so far as he expected. He came to an Indian track, which he followed, and killed four Indians and took a squaw and her papoose prisoners. She conducted

him to a neck of land, where he surprised eighteen Indians as they lay asleep, and he killed seventeen of them, and made the other a prisoner.

In the spring an expedition was fitted out against Port Royal, which proved abortive.

During the summer several individuals were killed at different places.

At Oyster river a party of thirty Indians made a furious attack on Captain Chesley, who, with a small company, were cutting timber in the woods. At the first fire they killed seven, and mortally wounded another. Captain Chesley, with the few men he had left, made a vigorous resistance, but were soon overpowered by numbers, and his party entirely cut off. His death was much regretted: he was a brave officer, and twice commanded a company in the expeditions against Port Royal.

Allen's cause against Waldron was tried at August term of the Superior Court, and judgment rendered in favour of the defendant. Allen appealed to the Queen in Council, but the cause was never brought to a decision.

1708.

A large body of French and Indians, marched this year from Canada, destined against the frontiers of New-England. Governor Dudley received information of their intentions by way of Albany, and sent out troops to guard the most exposed places.

They made their attack on Haverhill, where they did considerable mischief; but their number being much diminished by casualties on their march, they returned without doing any further damage. In the winter Colonel Hilton, with two hundred and seventy men, went to Pigwacket in search of the enemy, but returned without meeting any of them.

1709.

The frontiers were kept in continual alarm. Four persons were taken prisoners at Exeter, and one was killed at Oyster river, and the people were confined to the garrisons in expectation that another body of Indians were on their march against them from Canada.

1710.

The Country sustained a severe loss this year in the death of Colonel Winthrop Hilton. He was engaged in procuring masts, and with seventeen men went about fourteen miles into the woods to secure some trees, he had felled for the purpose. The Indians lay in ambush, and attacked him in an unguarded moment. They killed Hilton and two of his men at the first fire, and took two prisoners, the rest fled precipitately. The next day an hundred men went in pursuit of the enemy, but did not overtake them. They found the mangled bodies of their

slaughtered friends and decently interred them. Colonel Hilton was a person of a very pleasant disposition, of undaunted courage and bravery, and much skilled in the Indian mode of warfare. He was a great terror to the savages, and they had for a long time sought his destruction ; his death was to them, a cause of much triumph, but was deeply lamented by his friends and acquaintance.

Another expedition was formed this year against Port Royal. Five frigates and a bomb-ketch were sent from England, and the several provinces raised their quotas of men, of whom New-Hampshire furnished one hundred, and put them under the command of Colonel Shadrach Walton. The whole armament sailed from Boston, and arrived at the place of their destination the 18th of September. The fortress soon surrendered, and the city, in honour of the Queen, was called Annapolis.

1711.

The capture of Port Royal gave some check to the enemy, but did not prevent their making inroads upon the English settlements. They came in small parties and committed a few acts of hostilities on the outskirts. But it was evident that an entire stop could not be put to their depredations, as long as the French kept possession of Canada. Colonel Nicholson went to England and made such representations to the British Court that he obtained orders

for a sufficient force, to drive the French from the country. The Queen sent over fifteen ships of war and frigates, a battalion of marines, and five thousand veteran troops, who arrived at Boston the 8th of June. The Colonies furnished about fifteen hundred men, of whom New-Hampshire raised one hundred, and placed them under the command of Colonel Walton. The fleet sailed from Boston the 30th of July, and had advanced a short distance within the river St. Lawrence, when, on the night of the 23d of August, nine of the transports, with fifteen hundred men, were cast ashore, most of whom were lost. The fleet returned to England, and the New-England forces came home. The failure of this expedition was a source of great mortification to the Colonies. Their hopes were sanguine that with such an adequate force, they should soon dislodge such troublesome neighbours.

September 24th. The town voted to build a new meeting-house on the corner of the glebe land, which should be the stated meeting-house of the town, and that Mr. Rogers should be the settled minister of the same.

1712.

The war had continued a long time and been conducted in the usual mode in which savages carried on their hostilities. They made their attacks in small parties upon those, whom they found unguard-

ed and defenceless. They advanced without exciting suspicion ; until they struck the deadly blow, and then they retreated with precipitation, and could seldom be found. The frontier settlements were the most exposed, and generally suffered most by their depredations. This town escaped without experiencing any particular calamity, but the inhabitants were kept in continual alarm, and were subject to many embarrassments and hardships, usually attendant upon a state of war. Commissioners had met at Utrecht to fix on terms of peace. A cessation of hostilities was agreed on, which was proclaimed here the 29th of October. The Indians, as soon as they heard of this event, sent in a flag of truce, and desired peace.

1713.

The treaty of Utrecht established a peace between the belligerent powers of Europe and their dependencies. The Indians, no longer supported by the French, were desirous of a respite from war. Governor Dudley held a treaty in this town on the 11th of July, with the chiefs and deputies from the several tribes who had been engaged in the war, and a solemn covenant for peace was drawn up, and executed in a formal manner under the hands and seals of the parties.

The fixing of a site for a meeting-house, has frequently been the source of warm contention. The

first meeting-house in this town situated on the south side of the mill-dam, had been standing upwards of fifty-eight years, and was much out of repair. The majority of the town had voted to build another on the north east corner of the glebe, which was nearly completed, but a large party in town had been opposed to it. On the 7th of January the church authorised and directed Mr. Rogers “on the next Sabbath come sen’night to preach in the new meeting-house, and to continue preaching there as formerly at the old meeting, and to perform all other offices, which appertain to his function.”

The opposition consisted principally of the inhabitants at the south end, of whom Captain John Pickering took the lead. On the 9th of September they held a town-meeting and chose Captain Pickering moderator, and for the sake of giving him more influence, and some agency in the business, they likewise chose him a selectman. The other selectmen objected to him because he was one of the assessors. Great disorders and tumults ensued. The selectmen desired the justices present to dissolve the meeting, to prevent further disorders; and they accordingly declared the meeting dissolved and forbad all further proceedings. Notwithstanding which the moderator put a number of votes, which were passed by the party adhering to him, of which he kept the minutes, as the town clerk refused to act. The purport of the votes was, “that the old meeting-house, built by the town about fifty-

eight years ago, shall continue the town-meeting-house forever ; and when out of repair, so that it cannot conveniently be repaired, to build a new one on the place. That the glebe land formerly given by the town for the use of the ministry, shall all wholly remain to the use and benefit of the minister that shall continue preaching and supplying the place of the ministry in said house, or such one as shall be built in that place." And a committee was chosen "to discourse with Mr. Rogers and know whether he will continue the town's minister in preaching in said house during his abode in town, according to former agreement with the town ; and if he refuses to supply the place of the ministry in said house, then said committee to use their endeavour for procuring an able minister to supply the place of the ministry in said house, and to agree with such person for his salary, which agreement so made with such person, the town shall and doth engage to make good in all respects, to be done by way of rate on all persons and estates in equal proportion, by the selectmen that shall be chosen from year to year." These votes were entered on the town-book, and certified by John Pickering as moderator to have been legally passed in town-meeting by a majority of the inhabitants.

Mr. Rogers followed the directions of his church and officiated in the new meeting-house. The inhabitants of the south part of the town continued to meet for public worship in the old house, and the

committee appointed at the above meeting, invited the Rev. Mr. Emerson, formerly the minister of New-Castle, but who had been dismissed from that parish the last year, to settle with them, and offered him one hundred pounds, the strangers' contribution, and the parsonage-house, which terms Mr. Emerson accepted.

The inhabitants of Bloody-Point, with "a few of the outskirts" of this town, petitioned the General Assembly to be made a separate and distinct parish from Dover and Portsmouth. The parties were heard on the 16th of July, and it was "ordered that the petition be granted, and the place made a parish by themselves, and that they forthwith establish an able, orthodox, and learned minister among them, and be henceforth acquitted from the support of the ministry of Dover and Portsmouth." His Excellency Governor Dudley named the parish at Bloody-Point, Newington.

1714.

As the town considered the proceedings of the meeting held the 9th of September last, illegal, at a general town-meeting held the 7th of June, they chose a committee of five persons for calling and settling an orthodox and learned minister on the south side of the mill-dam; and voted to allow him one hundred pounds per annum out of the town-stock, and to provide a house for him at the public charge.

1715.

The Rev. John Emerson was installed on the 28th of March, to the pastoral charge of the parish which assembled at the old meeting-house near Pickering's mill-dam. Rev. Christopher Toppan of Hampton, in presence of Rev. Caleb Cushing, and Rev. Theophilus Cotton, gave him the customary charge. Mr. Rogers did not assist in these services, and it is said that he and his church were dissatisfied with Mr. Emerson's being settled there.

George Vaughan, son of Major William Vaughan, had been employed in England as an agent for the province, which brought him into notice with many persons of influence about the Court. The acquaintance and connexion his father had formed there, and the good opinion entertained of him by some high in rank and authority, were of essential service to the son. Upon their recommendation he was appointed Lieutenant Governor of New-Hampshire. As he was a native of the province and had the confidence of the people, this appointment was very agreeable to them, and particularly gratifying to his father, who was now in the decline of life. Mr. Vaughan returned to his native place and published his commission here on the 13th of October. Eliseus Burgess was appointed Governor of Massachusetts and New-Hampshire ; but remained still in England. As Governor Dudley was in daily expectation of his arrival, he did not visit this province, so that the gov-

ernment was administered by Vaughan. As soon as he commenced his administration, Lieutenant Governor Usher bid adieu to public life, and retired to a very elegant seat, which he owned in Medford, where he passed the remainder of his days. Mr. Usher was born in Boston, and followed the business of a stationer there. He sustained a fair character as a trader, and by close attention to his business acquired a large property. He laboured under the disadvantage of not having received an early education. In his intercourse with mankind his manners were austere ; an affected superiority rendered him unpopular. He continued to reside in Boston after his appointment of Lieutenant Governor, and pursued his former employment with unremitting ardor. He frequently visited the province under pretence of discharging the duties of his office, to which he attached great importance. His expectations of increasing his fortune were fallacious, and disappointment accompanied every attempt to enrich himself in the province. He died at Medford, September 5th, 1726, in the 78th year of his age.

Lieutenant Governor Vaughan caused an assembly to be summoned, which met on the 8th of November.

The General Court made him a grant of the money raised by the impost and excise for one year, but refused to continue those duties any longer, upon which he dissolved them.

1716.

The animosity, excited in the town by the erection of a new parish, still subsisted and produced unpleasant controversies among the inhabitants. The selectmen neglected to pay Mr. Emerson's salary, in consequence of which some of them were arrested. The town resented this proceeding, and on the 26th of March voted, "That if any lawsuit on the like occasion be again commenced, that it be impleaded at the expense of the town, for that he is not the settled minister of the town, pursuant to order of the government and vote of the town of 1714."

These altercations not only interrupted the harmony in town affairs, but extended also to the provincial government. Several members of the Council and Assembly belonged to this town, and took different sides in the dispute. Their prejudices led them to the same opposition on whatever question came before them.

Lieutenant Governor Vaughan summoned a new assembly, which met the 21st of August, and recommended to them the "establishment of a perpetual revenue to the King." The Assembly chose to raise the money for the support of government, in the usual manner by direct tax on polls and estates, and declined granting any impost.

Governor Shute arrived on the 17th of October, when a great change was made in the Council. Se-

veral of the old Counsellors were dropped, and six new ones, all belonging to this town, were appointed.

1717.

Governor Shute met the Assembly on the 10th of January, and in his speech took notice of the animosity which prevailed among them, and recommended a more conciliatory disposition. In their answer they mentioned the removal of the old Counsellors as a grievance, and stated that all the new appointments, as well in the Council, as in the Judicial Courts, were confined to the inhabitants of Portsmouth, which gave an advantage to the trading over the landed interest. An altercation having taken place between the Governor and House of Representatives with respect to issuing bills on loan, he dissolved them; and caused a new assembly to be summoned, who passed an act for issuing fifteen thousand pounds in bills on loan, for eleven years at ten per cent.

The town continued to show their resentment towards Mr. Emerson, and those that abetted him; on the 25th of March they passed the following vote, viz. "Whereas by virtue of a pretended vote on the 9th of September, 1713, there is a sham agreement made with Mr. Emerson to officiate as a minister at the old meeting-house, the same being clandestinely put upon record, voted, that the

same be null, and rased out of the town-book, for that he the said Emerson is not a legal settled minister of this town."

Lieutenant Governor Vaughan claimed the right to exercise the power of Commander in Chief, whenever the Governor was not actually within the province. He asserted that whenever the Governor was in Massachusetts, he was absent from New-Hampshire, and that his authority here ceased, or at least was suspended until his return. However true this might be in fact, Shute contended that as he was commissioned for both provinces, he was within his jurisdiction when he resided in either, and his command extended over both. Shute sent Vaughan an order to prorogue the General Court, instead of which he dissolved them. Penhallow, one of the Council, adhered to the Governor and opposed Vaughan's pretensions. This irritated Vaughan very highly, and the next time they met at the Council-board, which was on the 24th of September, he concluded a very intemperate speech in the following manner: "What I have to say to you, Mr. Penhallow, is in gross, and is, that your business for a long time has been to sow discord in the commonwealth, and you endeavour to propagate confusion and difference in each town within the government; when avowed principles oblige you to solder as much as in you lies, the affections of magistrates and people, thereby to divert all things which naturally produce dissensions, tumults, and feuds, the particulars I

have, and shall transmit to my Lord the King, in whose name, and by virtue of whose power, I suspend you, Samuel Penhallow, from sitting, voting, and assisting at the Council-board, till his Majesty's pleasure shall be known." As soon as Governor Shute heard of these proceedings, he came to this town with all possible dispatch, convened the Council, reinstated Penhallow, and suspended Vaughan. When these proceedings were transmitted to England, and laid before the King, he saw fit to remove Vaughan from office, and appointed John Wentworth Lieutenant Governor in his stead. His commission was signed by the celebrated Joseph Addison, who was at this time, Secretary of State, and was published here on the 7th of December.

1718.

About this time the Indians began to be troublesome. When they had an inclination for war, pretexts were seldom wanting. The French were always ready to excite jealousies and discontent among them. The Governor of Canada kept up a continual correspondence with Ralle, and through his influence encouraged them to acts of depredations. He secretly engaged to supply them with arms and ammunition; and increased their prejudices against the English by exaggerating the causes of their discontent. The Indians complained that the treaties made with them, had been violated, that trading houses had

not been established among them, nor smiths provided to keep their guns in order as had been stipulated. That encroachments had been made on their hunting grounds, which drove off their game, and that the building mills and dams on their rivers and streams had destroyed their fisheries. Under pretence of seeking redress, they insulted the settlers, killed their cattle, and burnt their corn.

1719.

The Honourable Theodore Atkinson was born in Boston ; his ancestors lived at Bury in the county of Lancaster in England ; his grandfather migrated to this country about the year 1634, and settled in Boston, where he possessed a large real estate ; he owned seven acres of land near Fort Hill, which was called the pasture. He likewise owned land on Atkinson-street, which was called after his name, and on Berry-street, which was so called from Bury, the place of his nativity, having undergone a slight change in its orthography. The grandson removed to this town in 1694, and settled at Great-Island, which was at that time a place of considerable importance, and the most populous part of the town. He there engaged very largely in trade and fishery. In 1701 he was appointed Clerk of the Superior Court of Judicature for the province, which office he held several years ; he was intrusted with various other important offices, which

he executed with great fidelity, and was much beloved by the people. He died on the 6th of May this year, and his death was considered a public loss.

Considerable quantities of iron ore, had been discovered in several places, and a number of opulent merchants in this town, proposed to erect works on Lamprey river, for manufacturing iron. They determined to procure workmen from Europe, but they wanted to obtain a tract of land in the neighbourhood, which would furnish a sufficiency of fuel, and on which they might settle their labourers. The General Court of Massachusetts, whilst this province was subject to their government, had engaged to "grant the town of Portsmouth, a quantity of land for a village, when they should declare to the Court the place where they desired it," in return for their liberal contribution to Harvard College in 1672. The town neglected to apply for their grant till the 25th of March the present year, when they chose a committee "to address the General Assembly at their next sessions to obtain order for laying out the six mile-square of land at the head of Oyster river, formerly granted by the Massachusetts to the town of Portsmouth." The petition was preferred to the Governor and Council, who granted to the inhabitants of Portsmouth a slip of land at the head of Dover line, two miles in breadth for the use of the iron works. This was called the two mile-slip, and has since been included in the township of Barrington.

The aurora borealis, or northern lights, was first noticed in New-England on the 11th of December. The appearance was very remarkable, and struck the minds of the beholders with surprise. The coruscations were distinctly heard, and the northern hemisphere seemed to be on fire.

1720.

The Indians committed so many acts of hostility, that several persons were obliged to leave their habitations and remove to more settled parts of the country. Scouting parties were sent out, which kept them under some restraint.

1721.

All the mischiefs perpetrated by the Indians were attributed to Ralle. He had them so absolutely under his control, that they undertook no expedition without his direction, or consent. It was thought that if he could be arrested and brought off, they would be peaceable; but how to accomplish this design, was attended with difficulty. They could not expect to effect it by surprize; an open force would meet with opposition, and war had not yet been declared by either party.

A conference was held at the garrison commanded by Captain Penhallow, on Arrowsic Island, between him and the Indians, at which Ralle and two other

missionaries were present ; but it ended without coming to any friendly conclusion. The English attempted to have another conference with them, without the presence of the French priests, but did not succeed.

In the winter, a party commanded by Colonel Thomas Westbrook, were sent to Norridgewolk to seize Ralle. They approached near his house undiscovered ; but he had sufficient notice of their intention to escape from them, and conceal himself in the woods. They searched his house, and found his trunk, which was of a curious construction, covered with brass-plate, and secured with two locks. It contained a secret apartment, which was not easily discovered even after the trunk was opened. In this apartment were found the letters from the Governor of Canada to Ralle, requesting him to excite the Indians to war, and promising to supply them. Disappointed in the principal object of their expedition, they returned home without doing any other injury than bringing off the trunk and papers.

1722.

March 26. The town “voted, that the village of New-Portsmouth, be divided amongst the inhabitants of the town of Portsmouth, according to their town-rate in the year 1721 ; and that no man be accounted an inhabitant but those persons who have been rated for four years last past.”

Ralle highly resented the attempt to make him a prisoner, and excited the Indians to avenge the insult. They became more active in their attacks upon the defenceless inhabitants, took several prisoners whom they sent to Canada, and at length destroyed the town of Brunswick. Upon this the Governments of Massachusetts and New-Hampshire, made a formal declaration of war against them, which was proclaimed in this town on the 25th of July. Every necessary precaution was adopted for defence against their inroads. The garrisons were well supplied with provisions and military stores, and scouting parties were kept on the alert to check the progress of the enemy. Lieutenant Governor Wentworth exerted himself to have every preparation for the service made in season. He visited the garrisons in person, encouraged the soldiers to a faithful discharge of their duty, and made every provision in his power for their comfortable subsistence, and prompt pay. The General Court acknowledged his unremitted attention to the interest of the province, and made him frequent grants of money.

The right of ferriage between this town and Kittery, had always been claimed by the town, but their right was not founded on any legislative or legal grant. This year they chose a committee to sue for and get the ferry, and to let out the same by lease, for five or seven years.

1723.

The administration of Governor Shute had given satisfaction to the inhabitants of this province, but in Massachusetts there was a violent opposition to him, which kept him in a continual state of uneasiness and perplexity. He obtained leave to return to England, and sailed on the 1st of June. He was naturally of a humane, obliging, and friendly disposition ; but impatient of contradiction and easily irritated. His departure was unexpected, and Lieutenant Governor Wentworth became Commander in Chief.

In the course of the summer the Indians appeared in several of the neighbouring towns, killed a number of persons, and took a few prisoners ; but they did not visit this place.

The Rev. Nathaniel Rogers departed this life on the 3d day of October, and was buried in the ancient burial ground, usually called the *Point-of-Graves*. A monument was erected over his grave, with a slate inserted in the top, on which was inscribed the following epitaph :

Hic sepelitur reverendus Nathaniel Rogers, A. M.

Jesu Christi minister fidelis ;

Prosapia studiis evangeliis devota

oriundus ;

ingenio, eruditione, integritate

moribusque suavissimis

valde ornatus ;

benevolentiae fidei, pietatis

exemplar illustre ;
 theologiæ consultissimus ;
 concionator præclarus ;
 ecclesiæ pastor vigilantissimus ;
 natus est Ipsvici, 7 mo kalendas martii,

MDCLXIX.

In Jesu sinum efflavit animam

5 to nonas Octobris,

MDCCXXIII.

1724.

On the 2d day of January the north parish agreed to give a call to Mr. Hancock to be their minister, in the room of the good Mr. Rogers, deceased, and offered him one hundred and thirty pounds per annum, and the contribution of strangers. Mr. Hancock informed the committee, who waited on him, "That he desires time to consider of it, and confer with his friends." Mr. Hancock preached here a short time, and the parish afterwards gave an invitation to the Rev. Jabez Fitch, which he accepted. He was the son of the Rev. James Fitch of Norwich, Connecticut ; was educated at Harvard College, and was graduated in 1694. He was elected one of the tutors, and during his residence at Cambridge, he was invited to settle at Ipswich as a colleague with the Rev. John Rogers, to which office he was ordained in 1703. He preached to that people about twenty years, and left them, for want of a competent support, on the 13th December, 1723, and in the course of the next summer he settled here.

This year the Indians were very troublesome. They began their depredations in the neighbourhood of this town the 1st of May, and continued them through the summer. The settlements at Dover and Oyster river (now Durham) were particularly exposed, and suffered more than any other places. Government offered a bounty of one hundred pounds for every Indian scalp, which induced a number of persons to form volunteer companies to range the woods in search of them. One of these companies fell in with three Indians at Oyster river; they killed one of them, who appeared to be a person of distinction, by some peculiarities in his dress. "He wore a coronet of fur of a scarlet colour, to which were attached four small bells, by the sound of which, his party were directed in following him. His hair was remarkably soft and fine. He had with him a devotional book, and a muster roll; on which were the names of one hundred and eighty Indians. It was supposed that he was the natural son of Ralle. To put a stop to these incursions, the governments of Massachusetts and New-Hampshire agreed to send two companies of one hundred men each, to Norridgewolk. They were put under command of Captains Moulton and Harman of York, who were successful in accomplishing the design of the expedition. They reached the village undiscovered, and took the inhabitants by surprise, killed Ralle and about eighty of his Indians, destroyed the chapel, and brought off the plate and furniture

of the altar. Ralle was in the sixty-eighth year of his age, and had resided at Norridgewolk twenty-six years.

The Indians continued their ravages on the frontiers, although the destruction of the village at Norridgewolk gave them a considerable check. A volunteer company of thirty men, commanded by Captain John Lovewell, marched to the northward of Winnipiseogee lake, where they discovered a man and boy; the former they killed and scalped, and carried the boy a prisoner to Boston.

The inhabitants of the town, situated near Sandy Beach, were desirous of being erected into a separate town or parish, and made application therefor to the General Assembly. Upon receiving notice of the petition the town voted, "That the prayer of Sandy Beach is highly unreasonable," and chose a committee to remonstrate against the same, "so that there may be no further curtailing or dividing the town, which is already reduced to very narrow limits by New-Castle, Greenland, and Newington."

Sampson Sheafe was born in Boston, in the year 1650. He engaged in mercantile business, and possessed a large real estate there. In 1675 he removed to this town and resided at Great-Island, where he carried on the fishery and navigation. During his residence here, he was Collector of the customs. In 1677 he contracted with George Jaffrey of Boston, merchant, to remove to Great-Island, and there take possession of his (said Sheafe's)

goods, houses, lands, and wharves, and to take charge of and manage all the said Sheafe's business in a mercantile manner, and to do and transact no other business, except for said Sheafe, or by his express direction or consent; for which services, Mr. Sheafe was to pay him forty pounds lawful money of New-England, a year, and to find and allow him good and sufficient meat and drink, washing and lodging. When Governor Allen came to this province in 1698, and assumed the government, he appointed Mr. Sheafe, Clerk of the Superior Court, one of his Majesty's Council, and Secretary of the province. But he held these offices only, during Allen's short administration. In 1711, Governor Dudley appointed him Commissary of the New-England forces, on an expedition against Quebec, under Admiral Walker, which failed in consequence of the disaster that befel the fleet in the river St. Lawrence. Mr. Sheafe exercised the office of Collector for the port of Piscataqua for several years. He afterwards brought his mercantile business to a close, and returned to Boston, where he died, aged 76.

1725.

Lovewell marched again towards Winnipiseogee lake in search of the enemy. He came to the place where he had killed the Indian in his first expedition, and his provisions falling short, he dismissed

thirty of his men by lot, forty remained with him. As they were ranging the woods they came to a track which led them to a party of Indians who had encamped for the night, near a pond in Wakefield. They kept at a distance till after midnight, when they cautiously advanced and found ten Indians asleep round a fire, killed them all, and returned in triumph with their scalps; for each of which, they received the promised bounty. Lovewell soon afterwards set out on his third expedition, accompanied by forty-six men, with an intention of destroying the villages at Pigwacket. Before he reached the place of destination, he fell into an ambush, in which he and most of his comrades were cut off. Those who escaped this severe destiny, returned home, having encountered the most incredible hardships on the way. The Indians suffered extremely in this engagement, which was supposed to be one of the most bloody they had ever experienced. Their leaders, and many of their best warriors, were killed, and the survivors chose to quit the field of battle, nor did they return to reside at Pigwacket as long as the war continued.

The governments of Massachusetts and New-Hampshire united in sending commissioners to remonstrate with the Governor of Canada for his conduct in urging the Indians to war. The French and English were then at peace, and his conduct was a direct breach of the treaty. Theodore Atkinson was sent on the part of New-Hampshire, and when

when the Governor denied his having encouraged the Indians to commit acts of hostility, or having offered them assistance, Atkinson produced his original letters to Ralle, which put him to a nonplus. He promised to use his influence with the Indians to restore peace, and assisted in procuring the redemption of the captives, who were detained prisoners in Canada. The good effects of this embassy were soon visible. The Indians made overtures of peace, and a treaty for that purpose was concluded at Boston the last of December, in the usual form; at the making of which, Lieutenant Governor Wentworth was present.

1726.

The inhabitants of that part of the town commonly called Sandy Beach, having petitioned the General Court to be made a separate town, at the annual meeting, the town voted, That the selectmen appear on the second day of the next sitting of the General Assembly, to answer to said petition.

December 2d. Samuel Penhallow departed this life in the 62d year of his age. He was born at St. Mabon, in the county of Cornwall, in England, the 2d July, 1665. Being bred a puritan, he came to this country with the Rev. Charles Morton, who was silenced for nonconformity, in the year 1686. Mr. Penhallow's intention was to devote himself to the ministry; but finding affairs in this country in a

more unsettled state than he expected, he removed to this town and engaged in trade. He married a daughter of the late President John Cutt, and in her right inherited a large estate, to which, by his industry and success in business, he made great additions. He held many important offices in the government. He was distinguished as a magistrate, but executed the office with a great degree of severity. He received a mandamus as one of his Majesty's Council, and took his seat accordingly. He was successively appointed Recorder of Deeds, a Judge of the Superior Court of Judicature, and afterwards Chief Justice of the same Court, and Treasurer of the province. Possessed of a strong mind, cultivated by education, and influenced by principles of religion, he discharged the duties of these several offices with integrity. He wrote a narrative of the Indian wars, in which the sufferings of the inhabitants of early times are related with accuracy. As a professor of religion he was exemplary; charitable to the poor, and hospitable to strangers. He was naturally of a warm and sanguine disposition; his firmness had the appearance of obstinacy; rigid in his principles, he was unwilling to make suitable allowances for those, who differed from him in sentiment.

1727.

Several persons, situated at or near the plains in this town, built a meeting-house on the rise of ground to the eastward of the training-field, in which they had had preaching regularly nearly two years. On the 4th of March the north parish "voted to free and exonerate them from any tax or charge towards the support of the Gospel ministry, or any parish charge at the Bank for the future, provided they have frequent preaching more for accommodation than at the Bank." They afterwards petitioned the General Court to be made a separate parish, which was not granted.

The town granted permission to build a bridge over the cove or dock, from Lieutenant Governor Wentworth's wharf to Captain Joseph Sherburne's wharf, leaving a passage for boats, canoes, and barks of twenty-five or thirty feet wide, provided the town be exempt from any charge of making or repairing said bridge.

October 29th. About half past ten o'clock a very violent earthquake happened; it was preceded by considerable noise, resembling distant thunder. Some persons perceived flashes of light at the moment the trembling commenced. The sea was affected as well as the land, and roared in an unusual manner. Several slight shocks were felt during that night, and almost every day for nearly a fortnight afterwards. Some chimnies were cracked, and oth-

ers shattered. The pewter on the dressers rattled, and in some instances was thrown down. The brute creatures discovered evident tokens of fear, and ran about the fields in great distress.

The representatives of the General Assembly, were chosen by virtue of a warrant from the Governor, to the sheriff of the province, directing him to issue his precepts to the selectmen of certain towns and districts therein enumerated, requiring them to cause the freeholders and other inhabitants of their respective towns and districts, duly qualified to vote for representatives, to assemble at such times and places, as they shall appoint, to elect and depute certain fit persons, in their respective towns or districts, to represent them in the General Assembly. The selectmen were to return their precepts to the sheriff with the names of the persons elected, from which the sheriff was to make a list of the representatives, and return the same, with the Governor's warrant to him, into the Secretary's office, previous to the day appointed for the meeting of the Assembly. They were elected for no definite time, but the Governor exercised the authority of dissolving them, whenever he thought proper. The Assembly, which had subsisted for five years, was dissolved of course by the demise of the King. Upon the accession of George the second, writs were issued for the election of a new assembly, which met on the 15th of December. A law was passed, which received the royal approbation, limiting the dura-

tion of the Assembly, or House of Representatives, to three years, from the time appointed for them to meet. This law was very popular; the long continuance of the Assembly was regarded as a grievance, because it deprived the people of the privilege of election. Some members of the Legislature protested against the law, as an abridgment of their rights. The act did not determine who should issue the writs for calling the new Assembly, nor to what places they should be directed; but the Governor exercised the authority as he had formerly done, which caused frequent altercations between him and the Assembly.

1728.

On the 22d day of January the house of Robert Metlin, situated on King's (now Congress) street, accidentally took fire and was entirely consumed, together with a great part of his stock of flour, and the clothing of himself and family. The great exertions of the inhabitants prevented the fire from spreading.

The dwelling house of Mr. George Walker, accidentally took fire, and was entirely consumed with all his furniture and clothing.

William Burnet, son of the celebrated Bishop of Sarum, had lately been removed from the governments of New-York and New-Jersey, to make way

for some favourite of the British ministry. He was appointed Governor of Massachusetts and New-Hampshire. His administration in New-York was popular, and his fame had preceded him to his new governments, so that the expectations of the people were raised in his favour. He was easy and polite in his address, and unaffected in his manners. He cultivated a taste for literature, and courted the company of men of science ; but all ostentation and parade were very irksome to him. On the 22d of July, Lieutenant Governor Wentworth and a committee of the Council, waited upon him at Boston, to congratulate him on his appointment, and arrival in the governments under his command.

Doctor Thomas Packer was one of the earliest surgeons of this town, who had been regularly bred to the profession. He was born in London, and educated a surgeon. He came to this country a young man, resided a short time in Salem, and then removed to this town. There being no physician here at that time of much repute, he united the practice of physic with that of surgery, and attained some eminence in both. He held the offices of Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Lieutenant Colonel in the militia, and Judge of Probate for the province for many years. As Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, he was superseded in the year 1695, and from the other two offices, was dismissed by the President and Council, the beginning of the year 1697, when the public sentiment was

much divided by political disputes. He was appointed a Counsellor in 1719, which office he held till his death.

1729.

On the 7th of September Governor Burnet visited this province. He was received with distinguished marks of affection and respect. His residence here was short, and he died at Boston a few months after his return.

1730.

Jonathan Belcher of Boston was appointed Governor of Massachusetts and New-Hampshire. He was a native of Boston, eminent as a merchant, and possessed of a large fortune. He was courteous to strangers, constant in his attachment to his friends, but severe to his opponents. His appointment was very acceptable to the people of both provinces. Lieutenant Governor Wentworth wrote a complimentary letter to him, during his residence in England, whilst it remained uncertain whether he or his competitor, Shute, would be appointed. On his first visit to New-Hampshire he accepted an invitation from Wentworth and resided at his house. But after he had been informed that Wentworth had written a similar letter to Shute, he highly resented

it, accused him of duplicity, and on his next journey to this place refused to visit him. Nor did his resentment stop here ; he limited Wentworth's compensation for his services, to the fees and perquisites arising from registers, certificates, licences, and passes, amounting to about fifty pounds sterling a year. He even extended his displeasure to some of Wentworth's connexions, who were removed from office to make way for his own friends. Theodore Atkinson, who married the daughter of Lieutenant Governor Wentworth, was Collector of the Customs, Naval officer, and Sheriff of the province. Richard Wibird was appointed Collector, and Ellis Huske Naval officer in his stead, and Eleazer Russel was made joint Sheriff with him. Atkinson being a person of humour, turned this latter appointment into ridicule. The Governor had ordered a troop of horse to escort him to this town, and required the officers of government to join the cavalcade. When Atkinson appeared he had only half his wand, as his badge of office. The Governor reprimanded him for being late, and he apologized by saying he had only half a horse to ride. The Governor's conduct towards Wentworth irritated some of his friends, who formed a strong party against him. Benning Wentworth, his oldest son, and Theodore Atkinson, were leaders of the opposition.

November 3d. The honourable Richard Waldron departed this life in the 80th year of his age.

He was the son of Major Richard Waldron of Dover, and was bred a merchant under Lieutenant Governor Willoughby of Charlestown. After his return to this province, he resided part of his time at Dover, and part at Portsmouth, and pursued the business of merchandize. He was early engaged in public life, and sustained many offices of honour and importance. His superior qualifications first introduced him to notice and his desire of being useful to society, induced him to accept the several appointments which were offered him. He was a Counselor, Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, Judge of Probate, a Justice of the Peace, and Colonel of the militia for many years together. He discharged the duties of these several offices with great ability, and undeviating rectitude. Amidst these worldly honours and riches, he did not neglect the more important concerns of religion. He was circumspect in his christian conduct, and endeavoured to walk agreeable to the precepts of the gospel. He was buried without military honours, because he had frequently expressed his dislike to pomp and parade at funerals.

Lieutenant Governor Wentworth did not long survive. He fell into a lethargy, and died on the 12th of December in the fifty-ninth year of his age. He was born at Portsmouth, in the year 1671, of pious parents, who educated him in the principles of the Christian religion. His inclinations led him to a seafaring life, and he soon obtained the com-

mand of a ship. In this situation he was very exemplary in his conduct, and constantly maintained the worship of God in his ship, by morning and evening prayer. By careful attention to his business, he acquired a handsome fortune. His engaging manners procured him the affection and esteem of all who knew him. His public spirit induced him to take an interest in whatever would benefit his native place. He was appointed one of the Council in 1712, and he adopted the same prudential maxims in public life, which he had found so very beneficial in managing his private concerns. After the administration of the government devolved upon him, his unwearied endeavours were to promote the welfare of the province. He had many difficulties to encounter; contending parties required great moderation to decide between them and reconcile their conflicting interests. The utmost prudence was necessary to direct an Indian war. In the discharge of his official duties, he gained the approbation of the inhabitants, and the affairs of the province flourished under his mild administration. He was constant in his attendance upon public worship, regular in his family devotions and in the observance of all the ordinances of the Christian religion.

1731.

June 24th. David Dunbar, a native of Ireland, was appointed Lieutenant Governor of the province,

and Surveyor General of the woods. He had been a Colonel in the British service, but upon the reduction of the army, his regiment was disbanded. He was afterwards appointed Commander of the fort at Pemaquid, which he called Fort Frederick, and he assumed the government of the few inhabitants in that part of the province of Maine. Being used to military discipline, he exercised his authority there with rigour. The proprietors of the lands applied to Governor Belcher for redress, who issued his proclamation, requiring the inhabitants to submit to the government of Massachusetts. Upon representation to the King in Council, Dunbar's authority was revoked. As an altercation had taken place between Belcher and Dunbar, his appointment of Lieutenant Governor was peculiarly disagreeable to Belcher, and the contention which had already commenced between them, increased as long as Dunbar continued in the country. Upon his arrival here, he joined the party in opposition to Belcher, and in their communications to the board of trade, each party endeavoured to procure the removal of the other.

Dunbar was not allowed a seat in the Council: Shadrach Walton, the senior Counsellor, in the absence of the Governor, presided at the board.

Dunbar was Commander of the fort at Great-Island; he had authority to grant passes to outward bound vessels, and licences for marriages. From these several appointments he received about fifty

pounds sterling. His salary as Surveyor-General of the woods, was two hundred pounds sterling, and the perquisites nearly one hundred pounds, which were divided between him and his deputies.

Theodore Atkinson, Benning Wentworth, and Joshua Pierce were appointed Counsellors ; but through Belcher's remonstrances, the two former were not admitted to a seat in the Council for nearly two years. In the mean time they were chosen Representatives from this town, and in that House kept up their opposition. The Governor and his friends were desirous of having the province united with Massachusetts ; the other party exerted themselves to have a separate Governor, who should reside in the province.

The Assembly determined to petition the King, to settle the line between this province and Massachusetts. The 7th of October, they made choice of Mr. John Rindge as their agent. He was a merchant of this town, and about to take passage for London on his mercantile business. Being opulent, he advanced what money was necessary to prosecute their design.

The south meeting-house was built on a lot of land presented to the parish by Captain John Pickering. After the frame was raised, Mr. Emerson made a prayer on a stage, erected within it for the purpose. This was the last of his public exercises.

The town gave permission to a number of persons to build a bridge over the cove, from Marshall's landing to Paul's, provided they would build and maintain the same at their own expense. This bridge had a hoist or draw in it for vessels to pass through, and was called Swing-bridge.

1732.

Mr. Rindge, on his arrival in England, petitioned the King, in behalf of the Representatives of New-Hampshire, to establish the boundaries of the province, which petition was referred to the board of trade. Mr. Rindge, having accomplished his private business, and being obliged to return home, left the care of the petition with John Thomlinson, a merchant of London, who was well known in this town, and he employed Ferdinando John Parry, as solicitor for the petitioners.

The Rev. John Emerson died the 21st of June, in the sixty-second year of his age, and was buried in the Cotton burial-ground, south of the mill-dam. Mr. Emerson was born at Ipswich, and was graduated at Harvard College in 1689. "He crossed the Atlantic in 1708, spent some time in the city of London, and was handsomely noticed by Queen Anne." On the 24th of May, 1703, he was ordained to the pastoral care of the church at New-Castle; but this connexion was dissolved in 1712. He was soon after invited to this town, and continued to

officiate in the old meeting-house south of the mill-dam, so long as he was able to preach. He delivered an occasional sermon on the 29th of October, every year after the great earthquake, which happened in 1727, to preserve the remembrance of that alarming event. "He is said to have been an agreeable companion, and a faithful preacher of the gospel." It is to be regretted that there were no more harmony and social intercourse between him and Mr. Rogers, during their ministerial labours in this town.

This year a number of gentlemen, attached to the Episcopal church, and giving a decided preference to the ritual of the English liturgy, erected a building here for the purpose of conducting public worship, agreeable to that form. Mr. Thomlinson contributed largely himself, and procured persons in London to assist in completing it. The Queen presented several folio prayer-books, and a service of plate for the use of the altar, consisting of two large flagons, a chalice, a paten, and a christening bason, stamped with the royal arms; in honour of whom, the building was called Queen's chapel.

1733.

The Rev. William Shurtliff was invited to settle in the south parish, as successor of Mr. Emerson, and was installed as pastor of that church the 21st of February.

1734.

July 7th. The body of Abigail Dent, was found in an alder swamp, in a pasture belonging to George Jaffrey, Esq. situated on middle road, about a mile from the court-house, with evident marks of violence upon it. The Coroner's inquest states, "that she was murdered by being strangled by the *menes* of some ill disposed person or persons, by laying violent hands on her throat." The body was secreted among the bushes, and was accidentally discovered after she had been missing a few days. Two sailors were suspected, as perpetrators of the deed, who were arrested and examined, but there was not sufficient evidence to convict them.

William Pepperell, the father of the first Sir William, was a native of Cornwall, England. He emigrated to this country about the year 1676, and settled at the Isles-of-Shoals as a fisherman. It is said he was so poor, for some time after his arrival, that the lady, to whom he paid his addresses at the Shoals, would not hearken to him. However in a few years, by his industry and frugality, he acquired enough to send out a brig, which he loaded to Hull. The lady now came forward, and gave her consent. After his marriage he removed to Kittery Point, where he became a very wealthy merchant. He died this year.

1735.

A law had been passed, and was in operation several years, which required a session of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas, to be held in rotation in each of the four towns. This law was disapproved of by the King, and notice of his disapprobation was published here the 13th of June. From this time all the courts were held in this town.

1736.

An epidemic disorder, of a new class, hitherto unknown in the medical schools, made its appearance at Kingstown in May 1735. A young child was first seized with it, who died in three days. It spread rapidly through the country, and proved very mortal; especially among children, who were more liable to its attack than older persons. It baffled the skill of the most experienced physicians. Many families were left entirely childless. It was not contagious like the small-pox, but from some unknown predisposing cause, would appear in subjects, at a distance from those who had been previously attacked, attended with its wonted virulence. The throat was always affected, greatly swollen and inflamed, whence it was called the throat-distemper; a general debility affected the whole system, which soon became putrid. The Rev. Mr. Fitch published a bill of mortality on the

26th of July, for fourteen months preceding ; by which it appears, that ninety-nine persons died within that time in this town, of whom, eighty-one were children under ten years of age.

The Rev. Arthur Brown, a native of Drogheda in Ireland, was inducted Rector of the Episcopal church here. He was educated at Trinity College in Dublin, and received the degree of Master of Arts July 29th, 1729. He was ordained by the Bishop of London as a missionary to a society at Providence, Rhode-Island, to whom he steadily preached until his removal to this town. His salary was one hundred pounds sterling. The society for the propagation of the gospel in foreign parts, allowed him sixty pounds a year, as missionary for Portsmouth, and fifteen pounds a year for Kittery, where there were a few Episcopalians, and the parish paid the remainder of his salary.

1737.

In the execution of the office of Surveyor-General, Dunbar had excited a strong prejudice against him in the minds of the people. They regarded the trees which grew on their land, as their own property ; notwithstanding they were reserved for the use of the royal navy ; and they felled and conveyed them to the mills. Dunbar seized the lumber, and in several instances, riots ensued, and the Surveyor was obliged to desist.

It was a great object with those, who opposed Belcher's administration, to effect an entire separation of the governments. They were desirous of having a governor, who would reside constantly among them; and devote himself to the affairs of the province. They paid great attention to Dunbar, whose situation was unpleasant; and under the impression that he had influence enough at Court to obtain the office, his friends encouraged his embarking for England, to solicit the appointment. He accordingly took passage early in the spring.

1738.

The Counsellors of the province were generally appointed upon the recommendation of the Governor, and were commonly his particular friends. In some instances where they were not agreeable to him, he has suspended them until he could by representation to the ministry, procure their dismission. When the suspended Counsellor had powerful friends at Court, he has sometimes been reinstated. The number of the Council was not limited, but depended wholly on the pleasure of the King. This year John Rindge, Esq. received the appointment. The mandamus to the Governor is as follows :

George R.

Trusty and Well beloved, We Greet you well. We being well satisfied of the Loyalty, Integrity, and Ability of Our Trusty and Well beloved John

Rindge, Esq. have thought fit hereby to signify Our Will and Pleasure to you, that forthwith upon receipt hereof, you swear and admit him, the said John Rindge to be of Our Council in Our Province of New-Hampshire, in the room of Benjamin Gamlin, Esq. deceased. And for so doing, this shall be your warrant. And so We bid you Farewell. Given at Our Court at Kensington the Twenty Second Day of July, 1738, in the Twelfth Year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command.

Hollis Newcastle.

Which writ was directed, To our Trusty and Well beloved Jonathan Belcher, Esq. Our Captain General and Governor in Chief of Our Province of New-Hampshire in America, and in his absence, to Our Commander in Chief, or to the President of Our Council of Our said Province for the time being.

The fees to be paid for a writ of mandamus, were about thirty guineas.

1739.

Whilst the contest respecting the boundary line between the provinces of New-Hampshire and Massachusetts was in agitation, Governor Belcher used all his influence to prevent its being settled, and to counteract the intention of those, who were strenuous for it; he proposed to have the two provinces united under one government. One method, which

he took to effect the union, was to procure a petition from the inhabitants of New-Hampshire to the King, praying that they might be annexed to Massachusetts. This petition was privately circulated by the Governor's friends and adherents, and several persons were induced to sign it. But as soon as it was publicly known, "a meeting of the freeholders and other inhabitants of the town of Portsmouth, legally notified, was held on the 23d day of July, and the following resolution and vote were passed. "Whereas it is reported that a petition or an address to his most excellent majesty hath lately been privately handed about many parts of this town, and some unwary persons without due consideration have been prevailed upon to sign the same, praying, as we have been informed, to be annexed to the Massachusetts' government, or to be continued in the same situation as to Government we at present are, which seems calculated to frustrate his majesty's most gracious intentions of having the boundary lines settled and to obviate any other benefit this province may receive thereby, all which we apprehend may be attended with very pernicious consequences to this province, if not timely prevented, the said petition having never been communicated to the town at any public meeting, but hath been obtained from the few that have signed it in a very private and unusual method—Therefore voted—That this town in public meeting assembled do utterly disallow of and protest against the said peti-

tion, and against its being preferred to his majesty as the request and desire of this town—And also that this vote be recorded at length in the records of this town, and a fair copy thereof made by the Clerk, and that the same be sent to John Thomlinson, Esq. agent for this province, who has the affairs of this government (now depending before his majesty in council) under his care and arrangement, in order to the same being laid before his majesty, in case said petition or address should be preferred to his majesty, that thereby his majesty may be truly informed of the inclinations and desires of his most dutiful and loyal subjects, the inhabitants of this town.”

Great exertions were again made to remove Governor Belcher, and to have New-Hampshire erected into a separate government. The Duke of Newcastle objected to the former application, because it was made by persons of no reputation.

This year many new petitions were drawn up and signed by the principal persons in the eastern country, and were transmitted to London ; one from this town was signed by Joseph Gulston, Richard Chapman, John Thomlinson, merchants, and Benning Wentworth, one of his Majesty's Council, in behalf of themselves and sundry others in the province of New-Hampshire. They stated that they had many valuable ships, lying and building in the river Piscataqua, and that the province was in a most naked and defenceless situation. Their only

fort at the entrance of the river, was quite useless and ruined ; their militia neglected and destitute of proper arms, so that upon the least rupture with the French, all their effects and shipping, as well as the whole province, would become an easy prey to their French and Indian neighbours, which event would much distress his Majesty's service, by losing this useful province, from which the Royal Navy was chiefly supplied with masts. A gentleman from Portsmouth, who was in London when this petition was presented, confirmed the statements, saying that the fort was in a most ruinous condition, without powder, and although there were forty good cannon, yet no pains were taken to mount them ; that the militia had no arms, and were not exercised above once in two years, and then only a small part of those, who ought to bear arms.—These evils were represented to exist more on account of the government being connected with Massachusetts Bay, than of any neglect of Governor Belcher, who could not visit Portsmouth but once a year, owing to the distance from Boston to that place, as well as to the badness of the roads.—The petitions, which followed, were not so moderate in their statements ; they said, that the garrisons and forts in the eastern parts of New-England had been dismantled by Governor Belcher, that he had also denied his protection to his Majesty's Protestant subjects, and, that if a new Governor were not speedily sent over to New-England, the

poor people in the east will be cut off, and his Majesty lose the woods, reserved for the use of the Royal Navy, to which Governor Belcher never was a friend.

With the petition of Wentworth and others, Thomlinson sent a short letter to the Duke of Newcastle's Secretary (Mr. Stone) saying, "the natives of Massachusetts, believe it their interest to prevent the settlement and growth of the province of New-Hampshire, and that the present Governor, hath done every thing in his power to that end; therefore what we should have proposed, would have been, to have his Majesty's province of New-Hampshire made a separate government."

While these endeavours were making for Governor Belcher's removal, his friends were not less active in his behalf; and no individual more so than his Secretary, the Honorable Richard Waldron, who drew up a petition, in which he eloquently set forth the many services of Governor Belcher, that he had expended a large portion of his private fortune for the good of the province, and had suffered much from the persecution of his enemies.

Richard Partridge, brother-in-law of the Governor, presented a memorial in behalf of many of his Majesty's subjects in New-Hampshire, with several addresses thereto annexed from the freeholders and inhabitants of said province, praying to be continued under the present Governor, and also to be annexed to Massachusetts Bay, and praying in regard

to their poverty, that they may not be put to the charge of maintaining a Governor for this province only.

December 27th. Sarah Simpson and Penelope Kenny were executed for the murder of an infant child. They were both permitted to attend public worship, the morning of the execution. Sarah Simpson attended at the south parish, where the Rev. Mr. Shurtliff preached a sermon from Luke, 23d chapter, 42d verse. Penelope Kenny, a foreigner, at Queen's Chapel, where the Rev. Mr. Brown preached from Proverbs, 22d chapter, 6th verse. These sermons were published. The Court, who tried these persons were, Henry Sherburne, Chief Justice, Nicholas Gilman, Joseph Sherburne, and Ellis Huske, Justices. Thomas Packer was the Sheriff who executed these sentences. These were the first executions, which ever took place in New-Hampshire.

1740.

The north parish gave permission to any person, or number of persons, disposed to procure a clock at their own cost, to set it up in the steeple of their meeting-house, so that the hammer of said clock might strike on the bell; and the proprietors of said clock, also had liberty to remove it at their pleasure. The parish likewise appointed a committee to treat with a committee of the south parish

to reconcile existing differences between said parishes.

1741.

The party in opposition to Governor Belcher, by their industry and perseverance, effected his removal. Thomlinson was indefatigable in all his undertakings; and he had penetration to discover every thing, which would favour the cause of his employers. Belcher's conduct was examined very minutely, and, whatever could be construed to his disadvantage, was urged against him, with great address. His situation was critical; at the head of two governments, whose interests were continually at variance, he was certain of being condemned by one or the other, and in some instances, his intentions were misrepresented. He was very open in censuring his opponents, and often treated them with contempt and abuse, especially in his letters to his friends. William Shirley succeeded him, as Governor of Massachusetts, and Benning Wentworth, his most warm antagonist, as Governor of New-Hampshire. Belcher was afterwards appointed Governor of New-Jersey, where he spent the remainder of his days in tranquility.

Governor Wentworth had been engaged in trade, and became eminent as a merchant. He contracted with an agent of the Spanish government to supply them with a large quantity of the best oak

timber, to the amount of 50 or 60,000 dollars, and he borrowed the money in London to enable him to fulfil the contract. The timber was delivered, but the Spanish Court refused payment. On his homeward voyage his ship foundered, and he with his crew, saved their lives by taking to the boat. After another ineffectual attempt to obtain payment from Spain, he represented his case to the British Court, and solicited their aid to obtain redress. Negotiations were commenced, but did not succeed: the war between the two nations, destroyed his expectations of receiving his pay. Mr. Wentworth then, through the assistance of his friend Mr. Thomlinson, applied for the government of New-Hampshire, which was granted him. Having received his commission, he embarked for this country, and landed at Boston, and from thence proceeded to this town. He arrived here the 12th of December, amidst the acclamations of a large concourse of people, who had assembled to welcome his return.

1742.

The General Assembly granted a salary to Governor Wentworth, of two hundred and fifty pounds to be paid out of the money arising from the impost: and having issued twenty-five thousand pounds in bills, on a loan for ten years, they granted him two hundred and fifty pounds more, out of the money, accruing from the interest of that loan, and made him annual grants for his house-rent.

1743.

Dunbar had retained his office of Surveyor of the woods till this time ; but Thomlinson, desirous of obtaining the office for Governor Wentworth, prevailed upon him to resign, upon paying him two thousand pounds sterling. He then applied to government, and procured the appointment for Wentworth. The salary was eight hundred pounds sterling ; out of which, he was to support four deputies. He was obliged to relinquish his claim upon the Spanish Court.

1744.

The ship of war, the *Astrea*, accidentally took fire on the 17th day of January, and was entirely consumed. The *Astrea* was a twenty-gun ship, which had been taken from the Spaniards at Porto Bello the present war, was riding at anchor in the Pool, and taking in a cargo of naval stores, destined for the use of the British fleet at Jamaica. The morning when the accident took place, was severely cold, and her distance from the town, rendered it impossible for assistance to reach her in season. The Pool is a broad sheet of deep still water, situated between the upper end of Great-Island, and the town on the southerly side of the river, with good anchoring ground. The largest ships can lie there in safety, and the mast ships were usually stationed there, to take in their cargoes.

France joined with Spain in the war against Great Britain ; and their colonies were consequently involved in it. The French took the Island of Canseau from the British, destroyed their fishery, burned their houses, and made prisoners of the garrison and inhabitants. The Indians assisted them in this attack. As soon as the news reached Boston, the government of Massachusetts declared war against the Indians, and offered a bounty for prisoners and scalps. The prisoners taken at Canseau, were in the first place, carried to Louisburg, and afterwards sent to Boston. Governor Shirley obtained such information from them, respecting the state of the garrison there, and their means of defence, that he formed the idea of taking it from the French. Shirley communicated his project to Wentworth, which met with his hearty concurrence. He represented to the British ministry, the great importance of the Island of Cape Breton, the danger of an attack on Nova Scotia, if the French retained possession of it, and the possibility of arresting it from them. He requested that a naval force might be sent to guard their coast, and protect their trade and fishery ; and Commodore Warren was ordered to proceed to the northward with sufficient force to answer this purpose. He and Governor Wentworth were to consult with each other as to the plan of operation.

William Vaughan, a son of Lieutenant Governor Vaughan, claimed the merit of first suggesting this

attack upon Cape Breton. He engaged warmly in the undertaking, and being of a bold intrepid disposition, was not easily discouraged by any unfavorable circumstances, that intervened. He proposed to Governor Shirley to take the place by surprise, which met with Shirley's approbation, and he exerted himself to forward the expedition.

1745.

A new Assembly was summoned to meet on the 24th of January, and precepts were issued to five towns, which had never sent representatives before. Nathaniel Rogers, Eleazer Russell, and Henry Sherburne, jr. represented this town. Sherburne was chosen Clerk of the House, and Rogers, Speaker, but the representatives from the five towns, were not allowed to vote. The Governor declined approving or disapproving of the speaker, until he was informed what right the House had, to prohibit any members, called in by the King's writ, from voting. The House determined that no towns (not before privileged) ought to have a writ sent to them without a vote of the House, or act of the General Assembly. An altercation took place between the Governor and House on the subject, which continued nearly a week. But the Governor at last informed the House that, "in the present situation of affairs in respect to the war, he thinks it for his Majesty's immediate service not to enter further

into the dispute, and therefore submits it till his Majesty's pleasure shall be known, and that no further delay in the public affairs may happen, he approves of the choice of Nathaniel Rogers, Esq. for their Speaker."

Governor Shirley submitted his scheme for capturing Cape Breton to the General Court of Massachusetts for their approbation. It was not favorably received at first, but was finally adopted in the House of Representatives by a majority of a single vote. He wrote to the Governors of the several provinces as far as Pennsylvania, informing them of his intention, and requesting their assistance. Vaughan came express to this town the 1st of February, with letters to Governor Wentworth, who communicated them to the General Assembly then in session. They immediately acceded to the proposition, recommended raising two hundred and fifty men, and that military stores and transports should be in readiness by the 1st of March. They passed an act for the emission of 13,000*l.* in bills, to defray their proportion of the expense, attending the expedition, to which the Governor, by advice of Shirley, contrary to his instructions, gave his consent. The troops furnished by this province, were enlisted before the last of February, amounting to upwards of three hundred. They were divided into eight companies, and formed a regiment, which was commanded by Colonel Samuel Moore; Nathaniel Meserve was Lieutenant Colonel, and Mr. Samuel

Langdon, who kept the grammar-school here, and preached occasionally, went as Chaplain to the regiment. Transports were provided for the troops, and an armed sloop, with a crew of thirty men, commanded by Captain John Fernald, served as a convoy to the transports, and as a cruiser. William Pepperell of Kittery was appointed Commander in Chief of the expedition. He was "a merchant of unblemished reputation and engaging manners, extensively known in Massachusetts and New-Hampshire, and very popular;" but totally unacquainted with the art of war. The New-Hampshire forces were placed under his command, by Governor Wentworth. Canseau was appointed as the place of rendezvous, and the troops met there the last of March. Commodore Warren, with the squadron under his command, arrived the 23d of April, and, after consulting with the General, proceeded to sea and cruised before Louisburg, to intercept any of the enemy's vessels, bound there with supplies. The French had no suspicion of the intended invasion, until they saw the British ships in the bay, and were quite unprepared for such an event. Captain Fernald, in the New-Hampshire sloop, captured a ship from Martinico and retook one of the transports, which had been taken by the French the preceding day.

Pepperell landed his troops at Chapeaurouge on the 29th of March. Vaughan had the rank and pay of a Lieutenant Colonel, but was attached to no

regiment. He conducted the first division of the troops through the woods, till they came in view of the city. On the 1st of May, he led a small party of thirteen men to the harbour, and burned the buildings, which contained the naval stores of the enemy, and destroyed a large quantity of wine and brandy. The troops in the grand battery, were so much alarmed by this fire, that they abandoned it, and fled to the city. When Vaughan and his men returned the next morning, he observed that the colours were taken from the flag-staff, and that no smoke issued from the chimnies of the barracks, whence he concluded that the battery was forsaken. He hired an Indian to climb into the fort through one of the embrasures, and open the gate. He found it deserted as he expected, and immediately gave notice to the General, and requested a reinforcement. The French sent a hundred men in boats to retake the battery; but Vaughan with his valiant party on the open beach, exposed to the fire of the enemy from the city and boats, prevented their landing until the arrival of the detachment, sent by the General, and with their assistance he kept possession of the battery. The French ship, the *Vigilante*, of sixty-four guns, richly laden with naval stores, was captured by Warren's squadron. She had been long expected, and when the news of her being taken, was communicated to the French commander, it produced evident marks of depression.

The Governor, observing the preparations which were making for a general assault, thought it best to capitulate, and on the 17th of June, he surrendered the city to the besieging army. The news of this important victory was received throughout the British provinces in America with every demonstration of joy, and in Europe with great surprise. Pepperell and Warren were created Baronets: Warren was advanced to the rank of Admiral; Pepperell and Shirley received commissions as Colonels in the British army. Parliament reimbursed to the colonies the expenses of the expedition. New-Hampshire received sixteen thousand, three hundred, and fifty-five pounds sterling.

The north parish on the 6th of November invited Mr. Samuel Langdon, who had returned from the expedition to Louisburg, to assist Mr. Fitch. They gave him permission to continue his school, as long as Mr. Fitch was able to preach, after which they agreed that Mr. Langdon should become his successor.

The house of Richard Waldron, Esq. at the plains, accidentally took fire and was consumed, together with most of the records of the Probate Court, and many other public papers.

Doctor Nathaniel Rogers, the son of the Rev. Nathaniel Rogers of this town, was born in the year 1700, and was graduated at Harvard College 1717. He studied the theory of physic and surgery with Doctor Bailey of Ipswich, commenced the

practice here and followed it several years with some success. He died in the month of November, aged 45.

1746.

John Tufton Mason, who inherited the title to New-Hampshire, had suffered a common recovery in the Courts of this province to dock the entail on that estate. He had offered it to the General Assembly, but could obtain no definite answer from them. On the 30th of January, he sold it for fifteen hundred pounds in fifteen shares to twelve purchasers, namely, Theodore Atkinson, Mark Hunking Wentworth, Richard Wibird, John Wentworth, George Jaffrey, Samuel Moore, Nathaniel Meserve, Thomas Packer, Thomas Wallingford, Jotham Odiorne, Joshua Pierce, and John Moffat, all of whom were inhabitants of this town, except Wallingford. Atkinson held three fifteenths, M. H. Wentworth, two, and all the others one fifteenth each. They immediately executed a deed, by which they released to all the towns, which had been previously settled or granted, the lands within their respective boundaries, excepting what they had heretofore held in such towns. Portsmouth was included in this grant, so that Mason's claim to any lands in this town became extinct.

The unexpected success, which attended the expedition against Louisburg, encouraged the British

ministry to make further attempts on the French colonies. Shirley had represented the dangers to which the English settlements would be subjected as long as the French held Canada ; and at his solicitation, preparations were made for invading it. New-Hampshire raised eight hundred men, who were commanded by Colonel Theodore Atkinson. This regiment, with the other New-England troops, was to join the British at Louisburg. Transports and provisions were ready the beginning of July, but they expected orders from England, which did not arrive, and the summer was wasted in inactivity.

The French equipped a numerous fleet, commanded by the Duke D'Anville, on board of which were embarked a large body of land forces, destined not only to defend their own colonies, but to molest and destroy those of the English. Reports were circulated about the last of September, that this fleet had arrived at Nova Scotia ; which excited great apprehensions of danger, in this and the neighbouring provinces. Instead of invading the territories of their enemies, their whole attention was engrossed in providing for their own defence. Colonel Atkinson's regiment was employed in repairing fort William and Mary at New-Castle, and they erected a new battery of nine thirty pounders at Jerry's point at the entrance of Little-Harbour. The province was kept in a state of fearful expectation for six weeks, when news arrived that the fleet had been dispersed by a storm, in which many of

the vessels were lost, and those, that escaped shipwreck had returned to France.

The Rev. Jabez Fitch died of a nervous fever on the 22d day of November, in the 75th year of his age, and in the 22d of his ministry in this place. He was distinguished for his literary acquirements, and cultivated with assiduity his taste for historical researches. He published four sermons after his settlement here. The first was delivered to his own parish the Sunday after the great earthquake, which happened October 29th, 1727. The second he preached at the ordination of the Rev. John Tucke, who was settled at the Isles-of-Shoals, July 26, 1732, from these words, "I will make you fishers of men." The other two were occasioned by the epidemic disorder, which proved so fatal in the year 1735, commonly called the throat-distemper. He took pains to collect many historical facts, which he did not publish, but the historian of this province, reaped the fruits of his labours by examining his manuscripts.

1747.

As soon as the alarm occasioned by the expectation of the French fleet had subsided, Colonel Atkinson's regiment marched to Winnipiseogee lake, and encamped near its borders for the purpose of defending the frontiers from the incursions of the Indians. They remained there through the winter,

very inactive, except in pursuing their amusements; without subordination or discipline, and undisturbed by the enemy, whilst other parts of the country, were suffering by their ravages.

The Rev. Samuel Langdon was ordained on the 4th of February, to the pastoral care of the north church and parish.

The Rev. William Shurtliff died the 9th of May, and "his remains were deposited under the communion-table of his church. No stone has ever been erected to his memory. His name however will long be mentioned with respect for his uncommon meekness and patience under great trials, and for distinguished piety, as well as pastoral fidelity." He was born at Plymouth in Massachusetts, and was graduated at Harvard College, in 1707. He published five sermons, and an account of the revival of religion in Portsmouth, about the year 1742, which was printed in the 22d and 48th numbers of the Christian history for 1743.

1748.

Doctor Joseph Peirce, the son of Joshua Peirce, was a native of Portsmouth. He studied the theory of physic and surgery with Doctor Packer, and established himself in this town. After a successful course of practice for a number of years, he was seized with the small-pox, of which disorder he died in the month of January of this year.

The people at and near the plains united cordially in the settlement of Mr. Langdon, and the meeting-house, which had been erected there, was taken down.

Peace was established between the belligerent powers, by the treaty made at Aix la Chapelle, in which it was stipulated that all things should be restored to the state they were in before the war. In consequence of this article, the island of Cape Breton, was again put into the hands of the French. This was a mortifying circumstance to the New-England provinces, who had made so great exertions only three years before, to wrest it from the enemy. The troops left to guard Louisburg, were permitted to return home ; among whom were several respectable officers belonging to this town.

1749.

The honourable George Jaffrey was born at Great-Island, and received a public education at Harvard College, where he was graduated in 1702. He removed to this town and engaged in trade ; he was appointed Counsellor in 1716, and Treasurer of the province after the death of Mr. Penhallow in 1726. He was appointed Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Judicature ; and he retained that office as well as that of Counsellor until his death, which took place the beginning of the present year.

Daniel Peirce, Esq. and several other gentlemen, purchased a clock by subscription, which they presented to the town the 25th of March, and which was accepted by the town, and placed in the steeple of the north meeting-house.

The constant communication with foreign places by sea, kept the town continually exposed to the small-pox. To prevent its spreading, they had occasionally hired houses, situated at a distance from the compact part of the town, to which persons infected with this contagious disorder were removed. This year they purchased a small island in the river, just below the town, on which they built a house, with suitable accommodations for a hospital. A family resides in the house to attend upon the sick that are brought there. It is called the pest-house.

The south parish had been supplied with occasional preachers, since the death of Mr. Shurtliff. Having heard an excellent character of Mr. Strong of Northampton, they sent Matthew Livermore and Henry Sherburne, Esquires, to invite him to visit them. He had intended to devote himself to the labours of a missionary among the Indians; and commenced a journey into the wilderness for that purpose, but was taken sick before he reached the place of his destination, and was obliged to return. He accompanied the committee to this town, and the parish soon gave him an invitation to settle with them, which he at first declined; on account of his intention of spending his life in preaching to the

Indians. His health was so impaired, that the commissioners at Boston thought it not best for him to undertake that laborious office. The parish renewed their invitation, which he accepted, and was ordained the 28th of June.

The dispute between the Governor and Assembly respecting the right of sending writs to new towns for the choice of Representatives, had subsided during the war, but as soon as peace was established, the Governor received instructions from the British Court to dissolve the Assembly, and to call a new one; that writs should be sent to those towns, whose representatives had been excluded, and that the Governor should protect the rights of the persons chosen.

The Assembly met the beginning of January. Their first act was to exclude the members from the new towns. They then chose Richard Waldron Speaker. The Governor negatived him, and ordered the House to admit the new members, and to choose another Speaker. Neither party was disposed to recede. The Assembly was kept under short adjournments. No business could be transacted, nor could any papers be obtained from the Recorder's office. The Recorder was chosen for three years, his time had expired, and a new choice could not be made, until the Assembly was organized. This suspension of business produced great clamour with the people. Many influential men in the province, attributed the existing difficulties to the Governor.

They petitioned the King for his removal, and that Sir William Pepperell might be appointed in his stead. At the same time they addressed a letter to Sir William, who was about to embark for Europe on his private business, requesting him to accept the office, and to use the great influence he had at Court, to obtain it. The petition was sent to an agent in London, who advised them not to present it, for as the Governor had followed his instructions, there was no probability that the King would censure his conduct.

This year a ship of war, called the *America*, pierced for fifty guns, was built at the north end of the town, for the British government, under the superintendence of Colonel Nathaniel Meserve.

1750.

A number of gentlemen associated, for the purpose of establishing a social library, upon the principles of a tontine. They made a small collection of books, some of which they imported from London, consisting principally of divinity and history. This year they set up a lottery for the purpose of aiding their funds, but it is uncertain whether it was sanctioned by law or not.

1751.

The selectmen were authorized and empowered to purchase one hundred and twenty-five tickets in the social library lottery, and to appropriate the money, raised by the same, towards building and supporting a work-house.

The Rev. Job Strong died after a short but painful illness, on Monday the 30th of September, and was buried under his meeting-house, aged 27 years.

1752.

The contention between the Governor and the Assembly continued through the term for which the Assembly was elected. The new members were not allowed to take their seats, and the Governor did not approve of the Speaker; no public business was transacted. The Recorder's office was closed; the people were clamorous against the Governor as the source of all their troubles, but he remained firm and inflexible.—Neither party was disposed to accommodate the other. The Assembly was dissolved of course, at the expiration of the term, and a new one was summoned, which met on the second day of January. The members from the new towns were admitted to their seats. Meshech Weare was elected Speaker, who was very acceptable to the Governor, and approved of by him. A Recorder was appointed, and the business of the session pro-

ceeded without interruption. The opposition to the Governor gradually declined, and harmony was restored among the members of government.

The Rev. Samuel Haven was ordained over the south church and parish the 6th of May.

1753.

Richard Waldron was the son of Colonel Richard Waldron, and grandson of Major Richard Waldron, who was killed by the Indians at Dover in 1689. On his maternal line, he was the grandson of Major William Vaughan ; so that he was descended from two of the earliest and most respectable inhabitants of New-Hampshire. He was born in February, 1694, received his education at Harvard College, and was admitted to the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1712. He fixed his residence at first on his paternal estate at Dover, but removed afterwards to this town and lived at the plains. In 1728 he was appointed a Counsellor, and a few years afterwards Secretary of the province. In 1737, Governor Belcher appointed him Judge of Probate. He retained these offices as long as Governor Belcher presided over the province ; but soon after Governor Wentworth commenced his administration, he suspended Mr. Waldron as Counsellor, removed him from office, and appointed Colonel Atkinson Secretary, and Andrew Wiggin Judge of Probate. He remained a private citizen, until the beginning

of the year 1749, when he was solicited by his friends in town to be a candidate to the General Court, which was to meet in January ; but he absolutely refused. In the mean time, the town of Hampton elected him their representative, without giving him any previous intimation of their design ; they notified him of their choice by a Constable, and after some consultation he accepted the appointment. In a letter to Governor Belcher, stating these circumstances, he says, “ Thus, Sir, I have once more stepped on the public stage, to act my part in the present scene *durante bene placito Populi.*”

When the Assembly met, he was unanimously elected Speaker ; the Governor negatived the choice, but the Assembly adhered to their vote. Matters remained in this situation for three years, the term for which the Assembly were elected, and they were then dissolved of course.

This was the last of Mr. Waldron's appearance in public life ; he died the present year, aged 59. Mr. Waldron was a person of distinguished talents and literary acquirements. A strong friendship existed between him and Governor Belcher, which continued through life. He took an active and decided part with Belcher against his opponents, and was serviceable in procuring testimony in his favour, when complaints were made against him to the Lords of Trade.

Mr. Waldron was a professor of religion, and zealously attached to the church, of which he was a respectable member.

1754.

Two Indians, one named Sabatis, and the other Plausawa, belonging to the St. Francois tribe, were killed by some persons in the woods, near Contoocook. Suspicions fell on Anthony Bowen and John Morrill. They were apprehended, indicted, and arraigned, and were committed to the gael in this town for trial. Previous to the time appointed, a number of persons in disguise, armed with axes and iron bars, came in the night, broke open the prison, and carried off the prisoners, who were never retaken; nor were the rioters discovered, notwithstanding a reward was offered by the Governor for the purpose.

June 19th. A Congress was held at Albany, composed of delegates from the several provinces as far south as Maryland. Theodore Atkinson, Richard Wibird, Henry Sherburne, and Nathaniel Weare were delegates from New-Hampshire. The three first belonged to this town. One design of the meeting was to hold a conference with the six nations on the subject of the French encroachments. Large presents were made them to detach them from the French. At this Congress a plan of union was agreed on, but not accepted, either by the British ministry or the colonial governments.

In the month of August, the Indians began their depredations on some of the frontier towns.

1755.

May 8th. Eliphaz Dow, of Hamptonfalls, was executed for the murder of Peter Clough of the same place. It appeared upon evidence, that a quarrel had subsisted between them for a long time. On the 12th day of December, 1754, they accidentally met at the house of Noah Dow, where some high words and threats passed between them. Clough challenged Dow to go out of the house to fight, and went out himself; Dow followed, and as he went out, took up his brother's hoe, which stood in the entry, and with it struck Clough a blow on the side of the head, which instantly killed him. Dow was arrested and examined before the honourable Meshech Weare, and committed to prison in this town. At the February term of the Superior Court, he was indicted, tried, and convicted: and sentence was pronounced upon him, that he should be hanged by the neck until he should be dead. The Sheriff was commanded by a warrant from the Court to execute this sentence on the 20th day of March following, but in consequence of two reprieves from the Governor, the execution of the sentence was respited until this day. The gallows was erected on the south road near the pound, opposite where the house of Samuel Tucker, jr. now stands; and between the hours of twelve at noon and three in the afternoon, Dow was hanged, and his body was buried in the road a few rods from the gallows, just on the declivity of the hill.

Matthew Livermore, Esquire, was the Attorney-General, who managed the prosecution, and Thomas Packer, Esq. the Sheriff, who caused the sentence to be executed.

A hay-market, with convenient scales for weighing, was erected at the lower end of Islington-road, and near middle road.

A building was erected on the glebe lot in Jafrey-street, for a work-house and alms-house.

The war, which was at first commenced by the incursions of the savages, and skirmishes with them, became general through the country between the French and English ; and on the part of the English it proved very unfortunate. The frontiers of New-Hampshire were entirely exposed to the Indians, who kept them in continual alarm.

The most severe and tremendous earthquake, which was ever felt in this country, took place on the night of the 18th of November, after midnight. The weather was remarkably serene, the sky clear, the moon shone bright, and a solemn stillness pervaded all nature, at the time it commenced. The tremulous motion of the earth was so great, as to throw down the pewter from the dressers. Some chimnies were cracked, and others thrown down. The sea and river were in great agitation, and the shock was so severely felt on board vessels in the harbour, that those persons who were on board, thought they had struck on the rocks ; many persons who were suddenly awakened from sleep, were greatly

affrighted, and thought the dissolution of the world approaching. Shocks were felt almost every day afterwards, for nearly a fortnight.

This month was remarkable for the earthquakes, which took place in various parts of Europe, Africa, and America. It was most terrible in Portugal. St. Ubes was swallowed up in the sea; Lisbon was almost destroyed; several towns in Spain were greatly injured; some places on the coast of Barbary were ruined, and in the northern provinces of America, shocks were felt very extensively; but many days later than they were in Europe, and the waters of the western lakes were greatly agitated by them.

1756.

March 25th. The town directed the selectmen to purchase a fire-engine at the charge of the town, the price not to exceed forty pounds sterling.

After the death of General Braddock, the command devolved upon Governor Shirley. He proposed an expedition against Crown-Point, and called on the several provincial governments for assistance. New-Hampshire raised a regiment, and gave the command of it to Colonel Nathaniel Meserve. He joined the army with his regiment, and was stationed at Fort Edward, which was committed to his care. The Earl of Loudon arrived in July, and superseded Shirley as Commander in Chief. The conduct of

Colonel Meserve in the defence of the fort under his command, met the approbation of the Earl; and the activity of the New-Hampshire troops, and their patience under fatigue, attracted his attention. At his express desire, three companies of rangers were selected from them, and placed under the command of Robert Rogers, John Stark, and William Stark.

October 7th. The first newspaper, published in New-Hampshire, was printed in this town by Daniel Fowle; entitled the New-Hampshire Gazette, and Historical Chronicle.

1757.

The time for which the troops had enlisted, having expired, another regiment was raised in this province, and put under the command of Colonel Meserve. He, with the three companies of rangers, and one hundred carpenters, accompanied Lord Loudon to Halifax. The remainder of the regiment under Lieutenant Colonel Goffe, joined the army at Albany under General Webb. They were stationed at fort William Henry, which soon after surrendered to the French. Eighty out of two hundred of the New-Hampshire regiment, were murdered by the Indians, as they marched out of the fort unarmed, after they had capitulated.

1758.

This year New-Hampshire raised eight hundred men, and gave the command of them to Colonel John Hart, who marched with them to Lake George to join General Abercrombie. Admiral Boscawen arrived at Halifax early in the spring, with a large fleet; on board of which were twelve thousand British troops, commanded by General Amherst. Their first object was the recapture of Louisburg; in which they succeeded. Colonel Meserve was at the siege of that place in 1745, and rendered essential service by constructing sledges, on which the cannon were drawn, through a deep morass. He embarked again with one hundred and eight carpenters, to assist at the siege the second time. Soon after his arrival, his whole party, except sixteen, were seized with small-pox; of which disorder, he and his oldest son died. Colonel Meserve was a gentleman of a fine mechanical genius. Being a shipwright by profession, he attained to eminence in his business, and acquired a handsome fortune. His moral and social character was unblemished, and as an officer he was greatly respected. The Earl of Loudon had a high sense of his merit and military talents. He presented him with an elegant silver bowl, on which was inscribed "From the Right honourable the Earl of Loudon, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's forces in North America, to Colonel Nathaniel Meserve, of New-Hampshire, in testimo-

ny of his Lordship's approbation of his good services at Fort Edward in 1756."

The General Assembly passed a resolve for building a State-House in this town, and appointed Daniel Warner, Henry Sherburne, and Clement March, a committee to carry the same into execution. It is built of wood, about eighty feet long, thirty wide, and twenty-one feet post, two stories high. The upper story is divided into three apartments. The easterly room is appropriated for the Council chamber; the middle, for the House of Representatives; and the westerly room is for the Courts of Common Law. The lower story is undivided. In the garret are several convenient lobbies.

1759.

A gaol was built in this town, at the corner of Prison-lane, and Fetter-lane. It was constructed of oak timber hewn square and covered with iron bars, well spiked to the timber, and lined with plank. A dwelling house was annexed to it; the whole was two stories high.

Monday the 7th day of May, about two o'clock in the morning there was a severe thunder storm. The lightning struck the steeple of the south meeting-house, and rending the spire in pieces, quite down to the cupola, descended in the northeasterly and southwesterly corner posts; the former of which it shivered into small strips, from end to end; and

shattered one of the main posts, in the end of the house. It seems then to have moved horizontally upon the underpinning, split a considerable piece of the stone at the southeast corner of the building, and entered the ground at ten or fifteen feet distance, making two considerable holes. Three cows and a hog were found dead on the north side of the meeting-house, two of which were in a stable, sixty feet from the steeple. The windows in the steeple were all broken. Most of the glass in the westerly end, and some on the south side of the house were broken ; and the floor in the west end was forced up.

After the reduction of Louisburg, General Amherst succeeded General Abercrombie, as Commander in Chief. Ticonderoga, Niagara, and Crown Point were taken by the troops under his command. There were great rejoicings in this town on account of these successes. A number of cannon were discharged ; and the bells rung, not only through the day, but the whole of the following night without cessation.

On the 18th of October, there were public rejoicings here on account of the reduction of Quebec, and other successes of the British arms. Public thanks were given to Almighty God for the remarkable interposition of his providence in these great events, and discourses suitable to the occasion, were delivered at the respective places of public worship. After which the bells rang, and cannon were dis-

charged from the different parts of the town from twelve o'clock until evening, and at noon from the ships in the harbour. At one o'clock a grand procession was made through the town, under a standard, representing a city besieged, with the motto *Nil desperandum Christo duce*. Three cheers were given at every corner. In the evening was a very large bonfire on wind-mill hill, in which the French flag was consumed, and the British preserved from the flames. There was an extraordinary display of fire-works; and the town was illuminated. Over the front door of the State-House was a representation of the city of Quebec in its ruins, after the surrender thereof, with General Wolfe ascending in a chariot, attended by victory, the ships below and above the city, and the English encampments at Point Levi, the bombs and cannon playing on the same; the French flag flying, and the English flag above it, and the King's arms over the whole. Joy appeared in every countenance, and every heart was warmed with patriotic ardour.

On the 8th of November, John Wentworth, Esq., only son of his Excellency Governor Benning Wentworth, died greatly lamented. His remains were interred on the 22d of the same month. A discourse, suitable to the solemnity, was delivered in Queen's chapel, by the Rev. Arthur Brown. Mr. Wentworth's benevolent and charitable disposition, inoffensive life and conversation, had justly recommended him to all his acquaintance.

1760.

Of those who have promised to figure in the republic of letters, Daniel Treadwell, the son of Jacob Treadwell, takes a conspicuous place. His father was a native of Ipswich in Massachusetts, removed to this town, and carried on the business of a tanner. The son early discovered a taste for literature. He received the first rudiments of his education under the instruction of Major Hale, who for many years was master of the grammar-school here. He entered Harvard College in 1750, and during his residence there, applied so diligently to his studies, that he obtained the reputation of a good scholar, and was particularly distinguished for his knowledge of the mathematics. He received the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1754, and was the same year elected professor of mathematics in King's College, in New-York, over which institution the Rev. Samuel Johnson, D. D. presided. He was recommended to this office by Doctor Winthrop, who entertained a high opinion of his talents, and proficiency in that branch of academical knowledge. Nor were the corporation who elected him disappointed. He continually rose in their esteem, and the President on a visit at Stratford, in Connecticut, in 1759, expressed the greatest anxiety that he had been obliged to leave this valuable young man in a declining state of health. Mr. Treadwell was attacked with a complaint on his lungs, which terminated in a consump-

tion ; and early in the spring of the present year, he fell a sacrifice to that disorder, greatly lamented by all who knew him.

On the 3d of February, at three o'clock in the morning, an earthquake was felt here and in the neighbouring towns.

1761.

Sunday morning, January 25th, a fire broke out in a barber's shop in King's-street, which communicated to the house of Mr. James Stoodly, innholder, and raged with such fury as in two hours to consume his house, barn, and other out-houses. Its progress was then arrested by the exertions of the inhabitants.

The daughters of Colonel John Tufton Mason, presented to Queen's chapel an elegant marble baptismal vase with a brazen cover, on which is inscribed Sarah Catherina et Anna Elizabetha Johannis Tuf-ton Mason Cohortis structoris filiæ ornatissimæ hoc baptisterium, ex gallicis manubiis apud Senegalliam, subauspiciis predicti Johannis acquisitum, ecclesiæ Anglicanæ apud Portsmouth in provincia, vulgo vocata New-Hampshire, liberaliter contulerunt Anno Domini 1761 et vicessimo sexto prædicationis Ar-thuri Browne ; Wiseman Clagett et Samuel Liver-more ecclesiæ procuratoribus.

The town built a house for a market on spring-hill, one story high. Thomas Wallingford, Esq.

of Somersworth gave one thousand of boards towards it.

A ledge of rocks extended across Court-street a little below the north meeting-house. On these rocks, nearly in the middle of the street, was erected a watch-house of brick, about ten or twelve feet square.

A number of persons withdrew from the other churches in this town, and formed an independent congregation. The reasons of their separation were, to establish a society to be regulated by the Cambridge platform in discipline; and in doctrines, by the New-England confession of faith. A church was collected by the assistance of the Rev. John Palmer, and Paul Parks of Connecticut, who occasionally visited them, and administered the sacraments. They purchased a lot of land in Pitt-street, on which they erected a meeting-house, which was so far completed, that they met in it this spring. They invited Mr. Samuel Drown of Bristol, Rhode Island, to settle with them in the ministry, which invitation he accepted. He was ordained to the pastoral care of this society on the second of November. The Rev. Alexander Miller, Paul Parks, and John Palmer, all of Connecticut, assisted at the ordination.

April 20th. Mr. John Stavers commenced running a stage from this town to Boston. The carriage was a curriele, drawn by two horses, sufficiently wide to carry three passengers. It left this town

on Monday morning, and proceeded as far as Ipswich the same day, and reached Charlestown ferry the next day.—It left Charlestown on Thursday, and arrived here on Friday. The fare from this place to Boston was thirteen shillings and sixpence sterling, equal to three dollars. It is supposed that this was the first stage which was ever run in America.

1762.

January 19th. The Honourable John Temple, Lieutenant Governor of this province, arrived in town. He was escorted by a troop of horse. On his arrival at the Council chamber, his commission was published, and he took the oaths required by law. The Lieutenant Governor was also appointed Surveyor-General of the King's Customs in the northern district of America, and Governor Wentworth issued his proclamation, requiring all officers, civil and military, as well as all other persons, to aid and assist the Surveyor-General in executing the several acts of Parliament, regulating trade and navigation in his Majesty's plantations.

March 25th. The town voted to purchase another engine, the cost of which is not to exceed sixty pounds sterling.

A barn belonging to the Rev. Samuel Langdon, situated near his house, accidentally took fire and was consumed.

Doctor Nathaniel Sargent studied physic with Doctor Packer. He commenced practice at Hampton, where he resided several years, but immediately after the death of Doctor Peirce, removed to this town, where he soon engaged in a full course of business, and found as much practice as he could conveniently attend. He died in the month of June of this year.

1763.

April 3d. Sunday night, between twelve and one o'clock, a distressing fire happened, which entirely consumed the dwelling house occupied by Mr. John Wendell, merchant, situated on the street leading over Canoe-Bridge. The noise of the flames awoke him, and he discovered the fire raging beyond the hopes of extinguishing it. The town was soon alarmed, and by great exertions and assistance, he saved most of the furniture, books, and papers in the lower part of the house; but every thing in the chambers was consumed. By the judicious management of the engines, and the alertness of the inhabitants, the buildings on each side, though not more than ten feet distant, were preserved. The fire-engines were found to be of very essential benefit. The town at this time owned but three, which were of the following dimensions; the first contains fifty gallons, discharges seventy gallons, thirty-seven yards, in a minute. The second contains one hundred and

twenty gallons, and discharges the same quantity forty-five yards in a minute; and the third, one hundred ninety-six gallons, which it discharges fifty-two yards in a minute.

1764.

The small-pox was very prevalent in Boston, and from the continual intercourse, which was kept up between that place and this, both by land and water, there was great danger of its being brought here, and communicated to the inhabitants. To prevent which, the selectmen had a fence built across the road at Great Swamp, and a small house erected, to smoke all persons and baggage, coming from Boston by land. After they were thoroughly cleansed by the guard set there for the purpose, they received certificates, and were permitted to pass. The same caution was used in relation to all vessels from Boston, which were required to perform quarantine, and every prudent method was adopted to destroy the infection.

Doctor Hall Jackson resided in Boston two or three months, and carried several classes safely through the disorder by inoculation; a large number went there from this town, to put themselves under his care.

Peter Livius, Esq. made proposals to the town for building a bridge across Islington-Creek. twenty

feet wide, part whereof to consist of a lifting-bridge thirty feet long, with flood gates under it of the same length, upon condition that the town would grant him the exclusive right to dam the water-course in said creek, together with all the benefits that may accrue therefrom to him, his heirs, and assigns forever. Whereupon the town, at a legal meeting called for the purpose, voted "That there be and hereby is granted to Mr. Peter Livius of this town, the sole and exclusive right and privilege to dam up the water-course in Islington-Creek, and to erect whatever mills may appear profitable to him thereon, together with all the profits and advantages that may accrue therefrom to him, his heirs, and assigns forever, on the following conditions, viz. : That wholly and solely at his own proper cost and charges he shall erect, and forever maintain a bridge across the said creek, for the passage of the public, toll-free. That the said bridge shall be twenty feet wide, sufficiently strong for carts and horses, and that part thereof shall consist of a lifting-bridge of thirty feet in length, for the convenience of floating up and down any crafts, lumber, &c. or vessels, toll-free ; That there shall be made a pair of flood-gates in the dam, thirty feet wide under the said lifting-bridge ; That he be at liberty to build the bridge, and adjoin his buildings thereto, in the manner that shall appear most convenient to him ; and further, that if within seven years from this meeting, the above conditions be not complied

with, then the above granted premises to revert to the town, to be regranted, or in case the said bridge should not constantly be kept in good and passable repair by the said Livius, or his heirs or assigns, then also the said privileges to revert to the town as aforesaid, and also to build two or more grist-mills on said stream, and keep them also in repair."

Mr. Livius accepted this grant and proceeded without delay to build the dam and erect grist-mills upon it. He likewise constructed the bridge over the dam agreeable to his stipulations with the town.

July. Two persons from Chester, one named Shirla, the other Wilson, came to this town on business. On their return just above the pound, Shirla was leading his horse, on which he had a quantity of fish, and Wilson was walking by the side of him, with his hand on the fish to support it. A thick black cloud suddenly arose in the west, from which a flash of lightning issued, and instantly killed Shir-la and his horse; Wilson was struck to the ground and stunned, but recovered soon after without being materially injured.

About this time Mr. Robert Sandeman came to this country and propagated^m his peculiar tenets in religion. Several small societies were formed in different parts of the country, which are called by his name, and thus a new sect or denomination of Christians arose. A society of Sandemanians was established in this town, and erected a building for public worship on a rise of ground in Pleasant-street.

Colonel Thomas Thompson purchased the lot on which this building stood, and built a house there, which is now owned by his heirs.

Towards the latter part of this year, Thomas Furber, who had served his apprenticeship with Daniel Fowle, commenced publishing another weekly paper, entitled "The New-Hampshire Mercury and Weekly Advertizer." He received assistance from some of the zealous whigs, who thought the printers of the New-Hampshire Gazette too timid in the cause of liberty, or their press too much under the influence of the officers of Government.

The British government passed an act imposing duties on certain articles imported into the American colonies. This was pretended to be for the purpose of regulating trade; a power they had always claimed a right to exercise, it was therefore submitted to without much opposition. Many viewed it as an attempt to tax the colonies without their consent, which was considered as a violation of the British constitution. The stamp act excited general alarm. It required stamped paper to be used in all legal and mercantile transactions. The paper was stamped in England, and sent over to agents here, to be disposed of as occasion required. All disputes and controversies arising under this act, were to be decided in a court of Admiralty, by a single Judge, without the intervention of a jury.

The intention of the ministry to raise a revenue in this country, became very evident, and several of the colonies remonstrated against these laws as oppressive, and unjust.

The stamp act met with some opposition in Parliament. Several distinguished members displayed their eloquence on the occasion. Colonel Barre, who was well acquainted in this country, predicted that the Americans would oppose the act, and in his speech styled them "Sons of Liberty." Those who opposed the arbitrary measures of the British government, assumed this name.

1765.

The opposition to the stamp act grew more violent as the time appointed for carrying it into effect approached. George Meserve, Esq. a native of this town, son of the late Colonel Meserve, who died at Louisburg, was the agent, for distributing the stamps in New-Hampshire. He was in England at the time he was appointed, but soon after returned to this country. On his arrival at Boston the 9th of September, he heard the public sentiment relative to these oppressive acts, and the determined opposition that was made to them in every part of the country. Upon the recommendation of his friends, he resigned his office of stamp master before he landed. The news of his arrival reached this town; but his resignation was not gen-

erally known. The indignation of the populace against him was manifested, not only by words, but on the morning of the 12th of September, his effigy was exhibited at the hay-market. It was accompanied by that of Lord Bute and the Devil.—Bute was at the head of the British ministry, that procured the passing of the act, and they supposed the Devil to be the instigator of it. The effigies hung there through the day, and in the evening were carried through the town in a tumultuous manner, and publicly burnt. Mr. Meserve arrived here the 18th of September, and was immediately surrounded by a large concourse of people. To pacify them he made a public resignation of his office on the parade. He was congratulated on his safe return by his friends, who then waited upon him to his own house. The stamped paper, intended for this province, arrived at Boston the 30th of September, and there being no persons authorized to take charge of it, Governor Bernard directed it to be lodged in the Castle. The stamp act was to go into operation the 1st day of November. Newspapers were subject to the stamp duties.

The New-Hampshire Gazette on the last day of October, appeared with a black border round it, an emblem of mourning for the loss of liberty ; and the printer stated that he should publish it no longer, as he could not submit to the unjust tax.

On the morning of the inauspicious day, a collection of people from the country, expecting that the

stamped paper would be distributed, were marching towards the town for the purpose of preventing it, but being assured by a number of respectable gentlemen of Mr. Meserve's resignation, and that the stamps were not here, they dispersed, and returned to their respective homes. The day was ushered in by the tolling of all the bells in town, the vessels in the harbour had their colours hoisted half-mast high; about three o'clock a funeral procession was formed, having a coffin with this inscription, Liberty aged 145, stampd. It moved from the State-house, with two unbraced drums, through the principal streets. As it passed the parade, minute-guns were fired; at the place of interment a speech was delivered on the occasion, stating the many advantages we had received and the melancholy prospect before us, at the seeming departure of our invaluable liberties. But some signs of life appearing, Liberty was not deposited in the grave; it was rescued by a number of her sons, the motto changed to Liberty revived, and carried off in triumph; The detestable act was buried in its stead, and the clods of the valley were laid upon it; the bells changed their melancholy sound to a more joyful tone.

A spirit of discord began to appear among those persons, who were kept in order, only by the restraints of law. They knew that stamps could not be obtained, and supposed that the courts of law could not proceed without them. In this they were mistaken; the courts were open, and all business

proceeded in the same manner, as if the act had never passed, except that the sheriff would take no bail bonds, and the debtor, arrested on mesne process was obliged to remain in custody until the decision of his cause. Associations were formed in this town of its most respectable inhabitants, to support the magistrates in the execution of the law, and every attempt to disturb the peace of society, was instantly suppressed.

Towards the close of the seventeenth century a person named Richard Wibird, came to this town in one of the King's ships. He was steward of the ship, or in an office subservient to the steward. His business was to furnish the table for the officers, and was generally called the King's poulterer. He married a Mrs. Due of Hampton, who had been in the practice of bringing small articles to market, and afterwards kept a retail shop in what is now called Market-street. He engaged in navigation, and was successful. By their joint exertions, they amassed a large estate. Mr. Wibird erected the first brick-house ever built in Portsmouth. They left three sons, Richard, Thomas, and John. John died in early life, and left one son, whose name was Anthony, who was settled in the ministry at Braintree. Richard Wibird was educated at Cambridge, and received his first degree in 1722. Soon after he left College, he engaged in merchandize, and pursued that business with diligence through life. He was one of the original proprietors of Mason's

patent. In 1739 he was admitted one of his Majesty's Council, and in 1756, received the appointment of Judge of Probate, and he retained these offices until his death, which took place the 25th of September, in the sixty-third year of his age. His house was the seat of hospitality; and many, especially among the clergy, partook of his munificence.

Tuesday, November 12th. Thomas Wibird, Esq. died in the 59th year of his age. He was educated at Harvard College, and was graduated in 1728. Having experienced the benefit of a liberal education, he esteemed all useful learning, and patronised literary institutions. In his will he left a legacy of fifty pounds sterling to Harvard College, and sixty pounds sterling to the school for the instruction of the Indians, at Lebanon, in Connecticut, under the direction of the Rev. Dr. Wheelock. Mr. Wibird gave sufficient silver to make two large flagons to the north church, of which he was a member. In his Christian course, he endeavoured to regulate his conduct by the precepts of the gospel, and to adorn his profession by a virtuous life and conversation. He was never married, and being possessed of a handsome estate, it was inherited, after the payment of several legacies, by some distant relations.

1766.

Mr. Meserve did not receive his commission till long after the time appointed for the stamp act to commence its operation. As soon as it was known that he had received it the people were jealous, notwithstanding his resignation, that he intended to accept the office, and distribute the stamps. They assembled on the 9th of January, and demanded his commission, and instructions, which he delivered up to them : they then required him to make oath that he would not directly, nor indirectly, attempt to execute the office ; which oath was administered to him publicly, by Wiseman Claggett, Esq. They marched through the streets, carrying the commission in triumph on the point of a sword, exposed to public view. They afterward sent it, enclosed to the agents of the province in England, referring the disposal of it to their discretion. But lest some clandestine measures should be adopted to stop it, they required the master of the ship, by whom it was sent, to swear that on his arrival in England, he would deliver the package, containing the commission and instructions, according to the direction. They used a flag on this occasion, on which were inscribed in large letters the words “ *Liberty, Property, and no Stamp.*” And to perpetuate this memorable event, they erected this standard at Swing-Bridge, which on this occasion they called Liberty-Bridge.

The stamp act was repealed the 18th day of March, and the news was received in this country, with extravagant demonstrations of joy. The pleasing intelligence was brought here by express from Boston, the 14th of April, and was confirmed by an arrival from St. Christopher's the same day. All the bells immediately commenced a joyful peal.

Thursday, the 22d day of May, was appointed for celebrating this important event in this town. At early dawn, all the bells began to ring; a discharge of cannon saluted the rising sun. A battery of 21 guns was erected near Liberty-Bridge, and dedicated to his Majesty. Another of thirteen guns was erected on church-hill, in honour of Mr. Pitt, and a third, of five guns on the town-wharf. The ships in the harbour were decorated with their colours; drums and military music contributed to the hilarity of the day. At twelve o'clock a royal salute was fired at Castle William and Mary by order of the Governor, which was answered by the batteries in town. A large number of gentlemen assembled at the Council chamber, and drank several patriotic toasts. In the afternoon a grand procession was made through the principal streets, and a salute was fired at each of the batteries as they passed. Magazines were provided, and the people were abundantly supplied with every kind of refreshment. The bells continued ringing through the day. In the evening a bonfire was kindled on wind-mill hill. A mast had been raised the foot of which was set

several feet in the ground, and a stage was built round it, filled with combustible materials ; the fire ascended majestically to the top of the mast, when it communicated with a bomb, deposited there, which made a fine explosion. A house near the State-house, was illuminated, and a beautiful display of fire-works was made from a stage erected in the front of it. The whole transaction was conducted with decorum, sobriety, and innocent mirth, “to the honour of the managers, who obtained the universal applause of the spectators.”

Mr. Meserve petitioned the General Assembly for indemnity for the injuries, he had sustained. His petition was referred to a committee, who reported, “that he had suffered no real damage either in person or property ; but that, when any real danger had been expected, guards had been appointed to protect him ;” upon which the petition was dismissed.

A spirit of speculation in new lands, prevailed among all ranks in society. Applications were continually made to the Governor for grants, and he readily complied with the requests. The townships were generally laid out six miles square ; in each of which, he reserved to himself a tract of five hundred acres. By these reservations and the perquisites of office, he amassed a large estate.

Governor Wentworth had not taken any active part in support of the unpopular measures, pursued by the British ministry, and was in favour with the

people. Some complaints, however, had been exhibited against him, and the ministry had determined to remove him from office, and to appoint his nephew, John Wentworth, as his successor.

Mr. Wentworth had been sometime in England, and had acted as agent for the province; by which means, he became acquainted with some of the ministry. He was patronized by the Marquis of Rockingham, whose name was Wentworth, and who was at this time, at the head of the administration.

He interceded with the Marquis in behalf of his uncle, and obtained permission for him to resign, instead of being removed from office.

Mr. John Wentworth received his commissions as Governor of New-Hampshire, and as Surveyor of the woods in North America, the 11th of August.

June. A letter signed by fifty-five of the principal merchants in London, trading to North America, was sent by express, when the act repealing the stamp act, received the royal assent, directed to the honourable Mark Hunking Wentworth, and the rest of the merchants in Portsmouth, New-Hampshire, informing them of the repeal; mildly reproving the conduct of those, who violently opposed the operation of the act; and recommending more moderate measures in future. Similar letters were sent to the merchants in other sea-ports.

August 5th. There was an eclipse of the sun, which began at 38 minutes past eleven, A. M. and ended 50 minutes after two, P. M.—Digits eclipsed $9\frac{2}{3}$.

*Mr. Nathan Coffin died in Portsmouth
on Jan'y 12. aged 66. He was a resident
of Portsmouth for many years.*

1767.

Henry Sherburne, Esquire, departed this life on the 30th of March, in the 58th year of his age. His ancestors were among the early settlers of the town, and had taken an active part in the management of its concerns. He was educated at Harvard College, where he was graduated in 1728. Soon after his return from College, he engaged in mercantile business, which he pursued to great advantage until his death. Mr. Sherburne was employed through life in many important public offices, in addition to his private business. In 1729, he was appointed Clerk of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas, for the province, which office he held about ten years. In 1731, and several years after, he was chosen one of the selectmen, in which capacity he exerted himself to promote the interest of the town. In January, 1745, he was elected one of the representatives of this town to the General Assembly, to which office, he was elected twenty-one years in succession. In 1755, he was chosen Speaker of the House of Representatives, and was successively chosen to fill that chair, until he was promoted to the Council. His Majesty's mandamus, which entitled him to a seat at that board, was dated February 21st, 1766. He was elected one of the commissioners at the Congress, which met at Albany, in 1754. In 1765, he received the appointment of a Justice of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas for the prov-

ince. Through two long and tedious wars with the French and Indians, he acted as one of the committee of war, and was active in procuring all necessary supplies in season for the service. He discharged the duties of these several offices with great punctuality and dispatch. "His natural genius was strong, and his judgment clear;" both were improved by a liberal education and uncommon diligence, which enabled him to accomplish the multiplicity of business, in which he was engaged. For many years he was afflicted with a most distressing asthma, which he bore with Christian fortitude, and resignation. He was constant and zealous in his devotional exercises, and the ministers of the gospel always found a cordial reception at his house.

Thomas Wallingford, Esq. of Somersworth, presented to the town a lot of land at the north end, for the erection of a school-house; which he conveyed by deed duly executed. This donation was gratefully accepted, and the selectmen were directed to have a building erected thereon for the purpose intended by the donor, agreeable to a plan, exhibited by a committee.

Governor John Wentworth arrived at Charleston, in South Carolina, in March; and came from thence by land. He was treated with distinguished marks of attention and respect in every province, through which he passed. Several members of his Majesty's Council, and a committee of the General Assembly, escorted by a troop of horse, received

him at the province line, and waited upon him to this town. A number of gentlemen from Portsmouth and the neighbouring towns, joined them on the road, and the whole formed a grand cavalcade. At the entrance of King-street a regiment of militia, and the independent companies were paraded, who gave him a military salute, as he passed. He alighted at the State-house, and was introduced into the Council-chamber, where he was attended by the Council and officers of government. The commission appointing him Governor, and Commander in Chief of the province, and a commission from the Lords of Admiralty, appointing him Vice Admiral of the same, were publicly read by the High Sheriff. The Sheriff also published an ordinance of the Governor, directing and requiring all officers of the government, to execute their offices till further orders. The Governor, Council, and gentlemen present, partook of an elegant entertainment, prepared for the occasion. At the close of the day, a procession was formed, which waited upon the Governor to his seat, where they left him to receive, if possible, a more endearing reception from his affectionate family, who had long expected this happy event. The guns of the fort and batteries in town, fired a salute, and the ships displayed their colours. Such ardency and emulation prevailed among all ranks on this occasion, as gave the most promising hopes, that his Excellency's government would be crowned with the most cordial affections of the

people, whose happiness and his own were now so intimately blended.

The General Court met in September, and voted the Governor seven hundred pounds, as a salary for the present year ; besides an allowance for house-rent. The House were divided on the question of making the salary permanent, and the Speaker decided it in the negative. His salary as Surveyor of the woods was seven hundred pounds a year.

Spanish dollars were estimated at six shillings each.

1768.

The situation of public affairs had assumed a very alarming aspect. A large number of the most respectable inhabitants petitioned the selectmen to notify a town-meeting, for the purpose of instructing their representatives. The town, on the first of August, agreed upon the instructions to be given them : in which they stated the grievances, which the country suffered, expressed their duty and loyalty to the King, and the confidence they had in his desire to promote the happiness of his subjects, and enjoined it upon them “ to use their utmost influence in the General Assembly, to forward as soon as possible, a full and humble representation to his Majesty, of the sentiments of his loyal subjects in the province, assuring him of their steady attachment to his Royal person, and zealous adherence to

the English constitution, and most humbly petitioning his Majesty with all duty and loyalty, that in his great wisdom and clemency, he would redress their grievances, and protect them in their constitutional rights.

Friday, December 30th. Ruth Blay, of Southampton, was executed in pursuance of the sentence of death, pronounced upon her by the Superior Court at August term last. She was indicted for concealing the birth of a bastard child, so that it might not come to light, whether the said child was born alive or not. Wiseman Claggett, Esquire, was the King's Attorney, who conducted the prosecution. The Court were, Theodore Atkinson, Chief Justice, Thomas Wallingford, Meshech Weare, and Leverett Hubbard, Justices. She was convicted by the verdict of a jury, and sentenced to be hanged by the neck until she should be dead. This sentence was executed by Thomas Packer, Sheriff of the province, on a ridge of high land in a field, belonging to the south parish, lying on the south road, and on the road leading to Little-Harbour. She was buried in the same field, near the bottom of the hill. A vast concourse of people attended.

1769.

James Nevin, Esquire, one of his Majesty's Council and Collector of the customs for this port, died on the 6th of February, in the sixtieth year of his

age. He was much respected in his office, the duties of which he discharged with fidelity. He was born in Scotland, and was a Post Captain in the British Navy. John Hughes of Philadelphia, succeeded him as Collector.

The weather in the months of January and February was very severe. The river was frequently filled with ice, which was frozen so intensely near the shores, that people passed and repassed on it with safety, between this town and New-Castle.

Theodore Atkinson, jr. one of his Majesty's Council, and Secretary of the province, departed this life on Saturday, the 28th of October, aged thirty-three years; and on the Wednesday following, his remains were deposited in the family tomb at Queen's-Chapel. During the procession minute guns were fired at Castle William and Mary, and from his Majesty's ship Beaver in the harbour; and every other testimony of respect was shown, which his public station and private virtues demanded.—He was the only son of the Honourable Theodore Atkinson, Chief Justice of the province, and President of the Council. He received his education at Harvard College, and was graduated in the year 1757. He was mild and obliging in his disposition, faithful and correct in his official duties, and devout in the exercises of religion.

Saturday, November 11th. Governor Wentworth was married by the Rev. Arthur Brown, in Queen's-Chapel, to Mrs. Frances Atkinson, relict of Theo-

dore Atkinson, jr. deceased, and daughter of Samuel Wentworth, Esq. of Boston.

On the 13th of December, Governor Wentworth granted a charter to Dartmouth College, which was established at Hanover. It took its name from William, Earl of Dartmouth, one of its principal benefactors in England.

1770.

The Rev. Samuel Drowne died the 17th of January, in the fiftieth year of his age. He was much esteemed by his people, for his great integrity and zeal, in the discharge of his duties.

James Mc'Masters and several other persons, having violated the nonimportation agreement at Boston, and finding the popular opinion so strong against them that they could not sell their goods in that place, removed to this town, to dispose of them here. This occasioned great clamour among many of the inhabitants, at whose request a public meeting was held on the 11th of April, when it was, among other things resolved that it would be highly unreasonable to suffer those persons that have been counteracting the good intentions of the neighbouring governments, to come among us and sell their goods. And that those, who encouraged, aided, or assisted them, should be esteemed enemies to the town.

Another meeting was held on the 12th July, at the request of a number of inhabitants, to see what

resolutions the town would think advisable to adopt with regard to the late revenue acts, and whether they shall judge it expedient to continue the importation and sale of British goods. The subject was referred to a respectable committee, who reported at the adjournment on the 24th July; but the meeting was dissolved without acting upon it.

On Sunday morning, September 30th, the Rev. George Whitefield died at Newburyport, in the 56th year of his age. On Tuesday, being the day of his funeral, all the bells in this town, tolled from eleven o'clock until nearly sunset, on the occasion.

Mr. Whitefield was born at Gloucester in England, in 1714. His father was an innkeeper, and he was designed for the same employment. "He was distinguished at school, for a retentive memory, and good elocution." As he approached towards manhood, he received some serious impressions, and began to think of qualifying himself for the ministry. About the age of eighteen he was admitted a servitor of Pembroke College, in Oxford; where he associated with young persons of the same habits and disposition with himself; which served to "cherish that religious enthusiasm, to which he was strongly addicted." He took the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1736, and about the same time was ordained a deacon by the Bishop of Gloucester. He crossed the Atlantic in 1738, and arrived at Savannah, in Georgia, in May, where he determined to erect a seminary upon a charitable foundation,

for the education of orphan children, which he called the orphan-house ; and returned to England the next year to collect money for the purpose. He was admitted to Priest's orders in 1740, and being very popular as a preacher, he commanded large audiences, wherever he went. Many of the clergy refused him admittance into their pulpits ; and but few of the churches, to which he had access, could accommodate the crowds of people, that assembled to hear him ; which compelled him to preach in the open air. On these occasions he was sometimes treated with rudeness, but his peculiarly happy address, generally commanded respectful attention. In 1748, the Countess of Huntington appointed him her chaplain. " His labours were incessant." He spent a great part of his time, as an itinerant preacher, in various parts of England, Scotland, and North America. He made seven visits to this country, and travelled from Georgia to Maine, preaching in every populous town he passed through to very numerous assemblies. The week previous to his death, he preached four times in this town, and on Saturday, at Exeter. As none of the public buildings in that place, could contain the people, assembled on the occasion, he officiated in the open air ; and in the afternoon, rode to Newburyport, where he intended to preach the next day. But Providence had ordered otherwise. He was much afflicted with the asthma, and it was supposed that his exertions the day be-

fore, brought on the paroxysm, which put a period to his life and usefulness. No clergyman ever possessed the powers of oratory in a higher degree. His gestures were graceful, "his voice was strong and musical, his pronunciation clear and distinct, his imagination was lively, and his feelings were warm." These qualifications gave him a most absolute command of the attention and passions of his hearers.—He was easy, polite, and engaging in his manners, facetious and pleasant in conversation, and sometimes indulged himself in a vein of satire, where the occasion justified him. His heart was susceptible of the most tender and generous friendship, and he continually expressed his gratitude to the Giver of every good and perfect gift, for the many instances of kindness, which he received from his fellow men. He never forgot the important business in which he was engaged, but embraced every opportunity that was offered to enforce the truths of religion, and the practice of virtue; guarding his hearers against depending upon the flights of imagination, and admonishing them that a holy life is the best evidence of a state of grace.

Sunday, October 14th, the honourable Benning Wentworth, late Governor of this province, departed this life in the 75th year of his age, and on the 19th, his remains were deposited in his family tomb.—The regiment of militia attended the funeral under arms, and St. John's Lodge of free and accepted Masons, preceded the corpse to Queen's-Chapel, where an

appropriate discourse was delivered by the Rev. Arthur Brown, Rector of that church. He was the son of Lieutenant Governor John Wentworth, and was educated at Harvard College, where he was graduated in 1715. On leaving College he turned his attention to trade, and engaged largely in mercantile affairs, which he conducted with great integrity and punctuality. But repeated misfortunes, that followed in quick succession, obliged him to retire from business. He represented this town several years in the General Assembly, and was afterward one of his Majesty's Council. On the removal of Governor Belcher, he was appointed Chief Magistrate of the province. It has been objected against him, that all the important offices in the government, were filled by his particular friends and near connexions. However just this censure may be, in his administration he was faithful to the King, and endeavoured to promote the welfare of the people. He was influential in procuring from the General Assembly a grant of three hundred pounds to Harvard College, towards replacing their library, which had been destroyed by fire. In consequence of this donation one of the alcoves in that extensive library, is marked New-Hampshire. He was warmly attached to the Episcopal church, of which he was an exemplary member. He would have established a College in New-Hampshire, if it could have been placed under the direction of the Bishop of London, but his views respecting it did

not accord with the public sentiment. He afterwards presented to Dartmouth College, five hundred acres of land in Hanover, on which the College edifice and the adjacent buildings are erected.

He continued in office twenty-five years; which is a much longer term, than any other Governor in America, ever held his commission.

1771.

The General Assembly made a grant of one hundred pounds lawful money to the Rev. Doctor Wheelock, President of Dartmouth College, in consideration of the expense of his leaving his parish in Connecticut and removing to this province to take charge of that institution. The town, on the 29th of March, to signify their entire satisfaction in the grant, and their cheerful readiness to pay their full proportion thereof, or of a larger sum if the Assembly had thought proper to have granted it—Voted, unanimously, “That the thanks of this town be given to the honourable Assembly for the above grant, and that the town-clerk be desired to present them with a copy of this vote.”

The act dividing the province into counties took effect this year, and half the courts for the county of Rockingham were removed to Exeter. In the appointment of Judges, Peter Livius, who had been a Justice of the Common Pleas, was not reappointed.

Thomas Packer, Esq. died the 22d of June. He had served in the office of Sheriff of the province thirty years, and was universally esteemed an upright, honest man, faithful in the discharge of the duties of his office, but rigidly severe in the execution of it.

The Governor appointed John Parker, Esq. his successor. And in August the honourable William Parker was appointed a Justice of the Superior Court of Judicature, instead of the honourable Thomas Wallingford, deceased.

Colonel Wallingford was a native of Somersworth, where he usually resided. In early life he was in indigent circumstances, and depended upon manual labour for his support ; but by industry and economy, rose to wealth and opulence. He engaged in mercantile business, and was very successful. He possessed a large real estate in this town, and was one of the original purchasers of Mason's patent ; by which he acquired a great landed interest in various parts of the province. He commanded a regiment of militia, and for many years was one of the Judges of the Superior Court. Being in this town on business, he was taken sick at a public house, and died after a few days illness on the 4th of August. His corpse was removed to Somersworth for interment.

At the last annual meeting, the town voted to build a house of correction, in which all idle and disorderly persons in the town should be confined to

hard labour, agreeable to law. In pursuance of which vote, the building was erected in the work-house yard.

The Collector and Controller of the Customs, seized the Brigantine Resolution and her cargo, consisting of one hundred hogsheads of molasses, for not entering the molasses, and securing the duties ; and put the same under the care of the officers of the customs, and caused the same to be libelled before the Court of Vice Admiralty. But about midnight following the 29th day of October, a large number of persons in disguise, armed with clubs, entered and took possession of the Brigantine, and having confined the officers, proceeded to unlade her. The Governor issued his proclamation offering a reward of two hundred dollars for discovering the rioters, so that they might be convicted.

1772.

Mr. Hughes resided in this town about twelve months, and then returned to Philadelphia. He was succeeded as Collector by Robert Hallowell, Esq. who removed to this town, and continued here about a year.

Mr. Meserve had been appointed Controller of the port of Boston, as a compensation for his losses, and disappointment, in being deprived of the office of Stamp Master. By permission of the British government, he and Mr. Hallowell exchanged

offices. Mr. Meserve returned to this town and executed the office of Collector here.

Mr. Livius resented the neglect, which he suffered, in not being reappointed a Justice of the Court, and being one of the Council, set himself in opposition to the Governor, and entered his dissent to questions before the Council. He went to England, and exhibited before the Lords of Trade, a complaint against the Governor and Council, who were furnished with copies of said complaint, and appointed agents to attend to their defence.

The honourable Sampson Sheafe was born at Great-Island in the year 1681: he was educated at Harvard College, and was graduated in 1702. After he left College he turned his attention to merchandise, and was largely engaged in the fishery, and West-India trade. He was appointed a Counsellor in 1740, and resigned his seat at the Council-board in 1761, being then eighty years of age, having held the office twenty-one years. He died at the advanced age of ninety-one years.

1773.

After a full hearing, the board of trade represented to the King, that the complaint against the Governor had been fully verified. But that reports, which they had received through different channels, of the situation of affairs within New-Hampshire, did all concur in representing the colony to have

been, since Mr. Wentworth's appointment, in a state of peace and prosperity; that its commerce had been extended, and the number of its inhabitants increased; and that every attempt made to excite the people to disorder and disobedience, had been, by the firm and temperate conduct of Mr. Wentworth, suppressed and restrained.

The cause was reheard before a committee of the privy council, who reported, "That there was no foundation for any of the charges, contained in the complaint against Mr. Wentworth, and that the general conduct of his administration had tended greatly to the peace and prosperity of the province." Which report was approved by the King.

This acquittal and approbation of the Governor, gave general satisfaction. The House of Representatives congratulated him in the name of their constituents; and the citizens of this town gave a splendid ball on the occasion to the Governor and General Assembly.

Mr. Livius was a gentleman of foreign descent, liberal education and handsome fortune. He came to this country for the purpose of vesting his property in lands. After he left the province, he obtained a lucrative office in Quebec, and never returned here.

The Rev. Arthur Brown, the worthy Rector of Queen's-Chapel, died at Cambridge the 10th of June, in the seventy-fourth year of his age; having ministered in the church here, thirty-seven years. His remains were brought to this town, and interred

in the church-yard. The Rev. Edward Bass, of Newburyport, preached on the sorrowful occasion to a numerous audience. Mr. Brown possessed a strong and active mind, improved by education. He was very attentive to his duties as a clergyman, and endeavoured to promote the temporal as well as spiritual interest of the people of his charge. He sought for objects of poverty and distress among them, and exerted himself to procure them relief. His sermons were written with classical correctness, and delivered with manly eloquence. He was strongly attached to the ceremonies of the church, and observed them with scrupulous exactness. He claimed some prerogatives as a parson, which, though usual in the English church, had never been assumed by the other ministers here; this circumstance rendered him unpopular with the dissenters, and caused them to charge him with bigotry. He was beloved by his parish, who lamented his death. In a letter from the church to the society for the propagation of the gospel in foreign parts, his character is thus delineated. "Good conduct, a most noble and benevolent disposition, excellent preaching, sound doctrines, and good oratory, were qualifications regularly exhibited and ever conspicuous in our late faithful divine." He published four sermons, and remarks on Doctor Mayhew's incidental reflections.

Andrew Clarkson, Esq. was a native of Scotland, and was born about the beginning of the present century. He was educated in the Protestant faith, and was a Presbyterian, but infatuated in his youth

with the delusion, which possessed many of his countrymen at that time, he enlisted under the banners of the pretender, and was an ensign in his army. After the defeat of the army, many of the prisoners were treated as rebels. Mr. Clarkson came to this country in the year 1717, and brought with him the colours belonging to his company. He settled in this town as a place of safety, being then about seventeen or eighteen years of age, and became a teacher in one of the public schools. He boarded at the house of Mr. William Cotton, a tanner, at the south part of the town. Mr. Cotton died, whilst Mr. Clarkson was a member of his family, and left a widow and six small children. Mr. Clarkson married the widow, who was several years older than himself, took charge of the tan-yard, and acquired by means of it, a handsome property. He often spoke of the early transactions of his life, with regret, but said, he thought at the time, that his conduct was justifiable. "He represented the town several years in the General Assembly, and held many other important trusts; in all of which he distinguished himself as a firm patriot and friend of mankind. He possessed an amiable, kind, and benevolent disposition; was open, honest, and generous in his conduct, which endeared him to his numerous friends, and acquaintance. He enjoyed through life an uncommon serenity and cheerfulness of mind, resulting from his firm belief of the gospel; the precepts of which, he exemplified in his life, and

fully demonstrated its power, in his resignation at the prospect of death."

The honourable Daniel Peirce died the 4th of December, in the sixty-sixth year of his age. He held the offices of Recorder of Deeds, and Justice of the Peace many years, and in the year 1766, was appointed one of his Majesty's Council for this province. The duties of these several offices, he discharged with great punctuality, and undeviating rectitude. He was endowed with uncommon strength of mind, a sound and penetrating judgment, improved by reading and conversation. Although he had not the advantage of a public education, the classics were familiar to him. He read much in divinity, not as a science, but as a rule of conduct. Doctor Doddridge was his favourite author, and the maxims deduced from these studies, regulated him in public and private life. As a counsellor and magistrate he endeavoured to conform to the principles of law. He took great pains to obtain information before he formed an opinion on any subject; but having once come to a conclusion, he adhered to it, with an almost pertinacious firmness; but he had the satisfaction of generally judging right. He was affable, judicious and sensible, and his friends seldom left him, without being instructed by his conversation. He was liberal to the poor, whom he always relieved with cheerfulness; and participated with them in the pleasures, which he communicated by his charity.

Vir justus, verique tenax.

The British Parliament repealed the duties on articles imported into America, excepting on tea. To avoid that imposition the colonies very generally agreed, not to import or use any tea, while it was subject to the duty. To obviate this difficulty the duty was taken off, and the East-India Company was permitted to ship teas to America on their own account, for which they were to pay a duty of three pence per pound on its being landed here. Under this regulation, teas would be cheaper, than they formerly were, which circumstance it was thought, would effect throughout the country, an acquiescence in the measures of government. The design of the ministry to raise a revenue in the colonies without their consent, was apparent. The objection was to the principle, not to the amount of the tax, and the opposition to it was general. Almost every trading town on the sea-coast passed resolutions to prevent the landing of any tea, shipped to this country by the East-India Company. This town partook of the same spirit; and at a public meeting held the 16th day of December, adopted the following preamble and resolves.

“Upon a serious consideration of the late act of Parliament, subjecting the colonies to pay a duty upon teas in America, and more especially the act of Parliament, passed at their last session, whereby the East-India Company have full power to export their teas to the colonies, liable to a duty upon being landed here, it appears manifestly that the latter

(act) was artfully designed by the ministry to carry more effectually into execution the former, which was made for the express purpose of raising a revenue from the colonies by the authority of the British Parliament only, without our consent. Wherefore, from a due sense of the value and importance of our liberties and properties, and from just apprehensions of the horrors of slavery, we are induced to make the following resolves.

First—That the measures of late pursued by the ministry of Great Britain in their attempt to subject the colonies to taxation by the sole authority of the British Parliament, are not only unjust, arbitrary, and inconsistent with the fundamental principles of the British constitution, but directly tend to hasten on the destruction of an empire, which by preserving in all its parts, those original rights, which first gave rise to its present glory, might increase in wealth and power, become the envy of all nations, and continue in full strength and grandeur for ages to come; therefore, in the foregoing view, we cannot but think ourselves bound by our duty to the King, and love to the nation of which we are members, to oppose such measures to the utmost of our power.

Secondly—That it is the natural right of men born and inheriting estates in any part of the British dominions, to have the power of disposing of their own property, either by themselves or their representatives.

Thirdly—That the act of the British Parliament, laying a duty upon teas landed in America, payable here, is a tax, whereby the property of Americans is taken from them without their consent.

Fourthly—That notwithstanding the preamble to the act laying a duty upon teas, asserts that the act is made for the support of government, the administration of Justice, &c. in America, yet this is not only unnecessary, but has a direct tendency to subvert our constitution, render our assemblies useless, and the government arbitrary.

Fifthly—That every virtuous and public spirited freeman ought steadily to oppose to the utmost of his ability, every artful attack of the ministry to enslave the Americans.

Sixthly—That the power given by Parliament to the East-India Company, to send out their teas to the colonies, subjected to the payment of duties on being landed here, is a plain attempt to enforce the ministerial plan, and a direct attack upon the liberties of America, and that it is the indispensable duty of all true hearted Americans, to render this effect abortive.

Seventhly—That a union of all the colonies appears to be the most likely method, under God, of obtaining a repeal of all those acts, which are so subversive of the freedom of the British colonies, and destructive to the whole nation.

Eighthly—That in case any of the Company's teas should be brought into this port for sale, we

will use every necessary method to prevent its being landed or sold here.

Ninthly—That whoever shall directly or indirectly promote or in any ways aid and assist in the importation of any of the East-India Company's teas, or any teas subject to payment of a duty here, by an act of the British Parliament, shall be deemed an enemy to America.

Tenthly—That this town do hereby return their thanks, to all their brethren in the several governments, upon this continent, for their noble exertions upon this important and alarming occasion.

Eleventhly—That the proceedings of this meeting be published, and sent to every considerable town in this government ; and that a committee be chosen to correspond with them, and with the several committees in the other governments."

A committee of correspondence, consisting of seven respectable inhabitants, was chosen for the above purpose.

1774.

April 12th. The town instructed their representatives to use their influence in the General Assembly, to join with the other colonies in every constitutional method to oppose the claim of Parliament to tax us without our consent, and to keep up a continual correspondence with them for that purpose ; to abolish the Court of Appeals, and also

to employ their efforts, that the Justices of the courts of law should hold their offices during good behaviour, and not at the will of the crown ; that adequate salaries should be granted to the Justices of the Superior Court ; that they strenuously oppose any salary's being granted to either of the Justices of the courts of law independent of this government ; that they should take the opinion of the Judges and some lawyers as to the operation of any law of consequence, which they are about to pass ; that good roads be made into the interior part of the province ; that laws be passed to prohibit the importation of slaves ; that secure places be provided for the records of the several offices ; that the fees in all public offices be established by law ; that enquiry be made concerning the application of all money granted for the use of the government, especially the powder money ; that the representatives be chosen annually, and that their doors should be open to all who choose to hear their debates.

On the 25th of June twenty-seven chests of tea, subject to the duty, were landed and stored in the custom-house, before the inhabitants had knowledge of it. A town-meeting was held on the 27th, which appointed a guard to keep the tea secure, and to prevent insults being offered to any individual on account of it. Upon consultation with Edward Parry, Esq. the consignee, it was agreed that he should reship the tea, and a committee was chosen to see this agreement executed. The tea having been

entered, the consignee paid the duty upon it openly, which was necessary before it could be reshipped. The Governor used every precaution to preserve the peace of the town, and every thing remained quiet. The tea was reshipped and sent to Halifax.

A committee of inspection was appointed to examine and find out if any tea should be imported, and upon the discovery of any, to give the earliest notice thereof to the town.

Seven deputies were chosen the 15th of July to meet the deputies from the other towns in the province, to elect a delegate to the General Congress, which is to meet at Philadelphia the 1st of September next.

The inhabitants entered into an agreement in writing, which was generally signed, by which they pledged their faith and honour, that they will not import, sell, purchase, or consume any kinds of East-India teas, nor suffer the same to be used or consumed in their respective families, until the present duties be taken off.

September 8th. The ship Fox, commanded by Captain Zachariah Norman, arrived here, having on board thirty chests of tea, consigned to Edward Parry, Esq. ; which caused some disturbance in the town ; the populace broke the windows of the consignee, and he applied to the Governor for protection. The Governor convened the Council, and required the aid of the magistrates and other civil officers to suppress the riot, which was soon effected.

The town assembled the next day, and Edward Parry, Esq. being present, publicly declared that he would not accept the consignment of said tea, nor have any thing to do with it; and Captain Norman promised, that he would at his own expense reship said tea, and send it to Halifax. A committee was appointed to guard the tea, and see it sent off; who reported that it was shipped on board another vessel; and that they saw the vessel with the tea on board outside of Fort-Point.

On the 10th of October, the town “voted to give two hundred pounds for the relief of the industrious poor of the towns of Boston and Charlestown, under the oppression, that they now suffer, from the port of Boston being blocked up by an act of the British Parliament.”

A very numerous committee was chosen to keep up the good order and quiet of the town, and to examine into every matter, that may appear unfriendly to the interest of the community.

Governor Wentworth retained his popularity as extensively as possible for a person of his situation, which was extremely critical—for he was placed between two contending parties, of opposite interests, and it could not be expected that he would please both. His wishes were to preserve the union of the two countries. He was attached to his government, and was desirous of promoting its welfare as far as he could consistently with his duty to the King, which he considered paramount to all other

obligations. A circumstance took place, which lessened him in the estimation of the people. The troops at Boston were destitute of barracks, and the carpenters there refused assistance in building them. General Gage applied to Wentworth to procure workmen, and he secretly employed an agent to hire carpenters to construct the barracks. As soon as it was known, his conduct was severely censured, and the committee of safety, of which his Uncle Hunking Wentworth, Esq. was chairman, declared that the person guilty of such conduct was "an enemy to the community." From this time his influence declined; and he retained only the shadow of authority. The real power was transferred to the committee of safety; and their orders were implicitly obeyed.

The proceedings of the General Congress were published in every part of the country, and received with approbation. They made a declaration of their rights, stated their grievances, and entered into an association, suspending all commercial intercourse with Great Britain, Ireland, and the West-Indies. When these proceedings were laid before this town, they voted unanimously, "That they did cordially accede to the just state of the rights and grievances of the British colonies, and of the measures adopted and recommended by the American Continental Congress, for the restoration and establishment of the former, and for the redress of the latter. They voted, "that the association strictly

adhered to, would in their opinion, prove the most peaceable and successful method, for the removal of the distresses these colonies are labouring under, and the restoration of their violated rights; therefore they cheerfully adopted, and would punctually and religiously execute the same as far as in them lies." A committee of twenty-five persons was chosen, "to observe the conduct of all persons, touching the association, that every person within the limits of their appointment, conform to the same; and if any should be hardy enough to violate it, in such case the majority of the committee shall forthwith cause the truth of the case to be published in the Gazette, according to the recommendation of Congress." And "lest some, for sordid gain, should be tempted to violate the association, they recommended a non-consumption, as the best guard against any infraction of the nonimportation agreement." They bore "testimony against every species of gambling, and recommended industry and frugality to the inhabitants."

Amongst other systems of economy, which were adopted, the regulation of funerals was one of the most important. They were usually attended with great expense, often beyond the ability of the survivors of the family to meet. All the connexions were obliged to dress in a full suit of mourning; enamelled rings were distributed to the near relations; gloves and rings were given to the pall-bearers and to the clergyman, who officiated at the grave.

In many instances escutcheons, with the family armorial bearings painted on silk, were laid on the coffin, placed over the door, and sent to the particular friends of the deceased. By general consent these expenses were dispensed with, and instead of them, gentlemen wore black crape round the left arm, and ladies, black ribbons, as badges of mourning.

An order had been passed by the King in Council, prohibiting the exportation of gun-powder and military stores to America. The committee of safety received a copy of it by express from Boston, the 13th of December. They collected a company with great secrecy and dispatch, who went to Fort William and Mary at New-Castle, under the direction of Major John Sullivan and Captain John Langdon, confined the Captain of the fort, and his five men, and brought off one hundred barrels of gun-powder. The next day another company brought off fifteen of the lightest cannon, all the small arms, and some warlike stores.

The Corporation of Harvard College made choice of the Rev. Doctor Langdon, as President of that institution. After due consideration, and by advice of his friends, he accepted the appointment. His parish was strongly attached to him, and consented to the separation very reluctantly. The connexion between them was dissolved, on the ninth of October. He was born in Boston in 1722, of respectable parents, though not opulent. He discovered

early marks of genius, which he improved by diligent application to study, while a pupil in the north grammar-school, where he laid the foundation of his future learning. His amiable disposition procured him many friends, who assisted him in obtaining an education at Harvard College, where he was graduated in 1740, with a high reputation as a scholar. He came to this town soon after, and had the charge of the grammar-school. His government and discipline in school were severe, but as the children improved under his instruction, he very generally met the approbation of their parents. In 1745, he was appointed Chaplain of Colonel Meserve's regiment, and was present at the capture of Louisburg; after his return, he was invited to preach at the north parish, as assistant to Mr. Fitch, whom he succeeded in the ministry in the year 1747. He protracted a map of New-Hampshire, in company with Colonel Blanchard, which they published in 1761, and inscribed it to the honourable Charles Townsend, Secretary at war. In return for the compliment, the Secretary obtained for Mr. Langdon a degree of Doctor in Divinity, from the University of Aberdeen, in Scotland. On the formation of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Massachusetts, he became a member. Doctor Langdon's publications are numerous. A thanksgiving sermon, preached at his own parish in 1759, on the anniversary of the birth day of his Majesty King George the 2d, entitled Joy and gratitude to God

for the long life of a good King, and the conquest of Quebec, from the 21st psalm, is said “to be one of the best occasional discourses extant.” Doctor Langdon professed to be a Trinitarian, and a Calvinist, in his religious sentiments. In politics, he was zealously attached to the cause of his country.

Doctor Langdon’s situation at Cambridge soon became unpleasant. Some of the most respectable officers of that institution conceived a strong prejudice against him, and he was not treated with that respect, which his character deserved. He resigned his office in 1780, and the following January, was installed over the church at Hamptonfalls; where he spent the residue of his days in usefulness and peace; a blessing to the people of his charge, and happy in the enjoyment of their affection and respect.

1775.

A convention was holden at Exeter, on the 25th of January, to which this town sent seven deputies for the purpose of choosing delegates to the General Congress, which was to meet at Philadelphia the 10th of May.

The Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace, at February term, at the request of the selectmen, laid out a highway to the ferry, through land of John Rindge, Esquire, at the north end, twenty-five feet wide; and awarded him the sum of seventy pounds for the same.

The British troops commenced hostilities, by firing on the people, collected at Lexington, in Massachusetts, the 19th of April. The news of this attack spread rapidly through the country. This town met on the 20th to consider what measures are most expedient to be taken at this alarming crisis. They recommended every man to furnish himself with a good firelock, bayonet, powder, and balls, and every other requisite for defence; that they form themselves into companies, and obtain what instruction they can in the military art; that one hundred men be enlisted, and properly equipped to march at a minute's warning; that they divide themselves into two companies of fifty men each, choose their own officers, and enter into such agreements, as that the strictest subordination and discipline be preserved among them. They then chose a committee to consult with the provincial committee, and adopt such measures as they shall judge necessary. They voted to use their utmost endeavours to keep up good order and peace in the town; to support all civil officers, and pay ready obedience to the law, to avoid the horror and confusion, which a contrary conduct may produce. And as groundless reports and false rumours had prevailed, that the person or property of his Excellency John Wentworth was in danger, it was unanimously voted, "that we, the inhabitants of this town, will use our utmost endeavours to prevent any insult being offered to his person or dignity, and that we will take

every method in our power, to assist and support him in the due and legal exercise of his authority." A committee was chosen to wait upon the Governor with the above vote.

Governor Wentworth still retained the hope, that all difficulties between the two countries might be adjusted ; and in his speech to the Assembly on the 4th of May, he desired them to adopt "such measures as might tend to secure their peace and safety, and effectually lead to a restoration of the public tranquillity, and an affectionate reconciliation with the mother country." He laid before them Lord North's conciliatory proposition. The House requested a short adjournment to give them an opportunity to consult their constituents, to which the Governor consented, and adjourned them to the 12th of June.

The Scarborough, ship of war, commanded by Captain Barclay, lay in the harbour, and had dismantled the fort. She seized two vessels laden with provisions, which were coming into the harbour. The inhabitants remonstrated against this proceeding, and the Governor solicited Captain Barclay to release them, but he refused, and sent them to Boston, under convoy of the Canseau, for the use of the King's forces there. A body of armed men irritated by these proceedings, brought off from the battery at Jerry's point on Great-Island, twenty-eight cannon of twenty-four and thirty-two pounders, which they safely landed in this town.

A convention met at Exeter the 17th of May, chosen for six months, to which this town sent five deputies ; who were authorized to adopt and pursue such measures, as may be judged most expedient, to preserve and restore the rights of the colonies. This convention gave instructions to the representatives, which were regarded as the advice of their constituents.

The Assembly met, according to adjournment, on the 12th of June. The representatives were elected by virtue of writs, issued by the Sheriff to such towns as the Governor directed. Three new towns were called upon to send representatives, in which some of the Governor's particular friends resided, who would probably be elected, whilst other towns more numerous, were neglected. The first act of the Assembly was to expel the members from the three new towns, agreeable to the advice of the convention. Upon which, the Governor adjourned the Assembly to the 11th of July. One of the new members was Captain John Fenton, who was returned from the town of Plymouth. He had been a Captain in the British army, but had disposed of his commission. On the division of the province into counties, he was appointed Clerk of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas for the county of Grafton, and Judge of Probate for that county ; he kept his office and resided in this town. After his expulsion, he gave vent to his passions, and expressed himself very freely as to the measures, pursued by

the country. This enraged the populace, who collected to assault him, and he fled to the Governor's house for protection. They brought a field-piece, mounted, and placed it before the door, and threatened to discharge it, if he were not delivered up. Fenton surrendered, and was sent to the committee of safety at Exeter, for trial. The Governor conceived this to be an insult offered to himself, and immediately took refuge in the fort.

Captain Barclay continued the practice of seizing all vessels, entering the harbour, and sending them to Boston. He likewise stopped all boats from going out of the river to take fish, under pretence that his orders to execute the act, restraining trade, required it. In retaliation his boats were not permitted to come up to town for provisions, and one of them was fired upon by the guard, placed near the shore; the boat returned the fire, and several shot were exchanged without damage on either side. The town passed a vote, disapproving the action, and sent a copy of it to Captain Barclay.

Governor Wentworth sent a message from the fort to the Assembly on the 11th of July, and adjourned them to the 28th of September. On the 24th of August, he took passage in the Scarborough for Boston.

After the departure of the ships of war from the harbour, the convention appointed Major Ezekiel Worthen, engineer; and under his direction, the people formed themselves into volunteer companies,

in which almost every individual took a part; they built two forts on two islands at the narrows, which commanded the channel, and planted there the cannon, which had been taken from the fort and battery.

Governor Wentworth came to the Isles-of-Shoals, and prorogued the General Assembly to the month of April. This was his last official act within the province; and the royal government in New-Hampshire entirely ceased. Governor Wentworth was educated at Harvard College, and was graduated in the year 1755. He was distinguished for the brilliancy of his talents, a good classical taste in literature, and for those amiable qualities, which gained him the esteem of all who knew him. He spent some time in his father's compting house, after he left College, to obtain an insight into mercantile business, and then went to London, where he resided several years, and until he was appointed Governor of the province. He received the degree of Doctor of Laws from the Universities of Oxford in England, and Aberdeen in Scotland. He was the friend of learning and of learned men. Dartmouth College was established during his administration, and flourished under his patronage. His constant endeavour was to promote the interest of the province, and through his influence its settlements rapidly increased. He did all in his power to preserve the union between this country and Great Britain, but was obliged to yield to the spirit of the times, and submit to a sep-

aration. The Rev. Doctor Dwight, in his travels, says, "Governor Wentworth was the greatest benefactor to the province of New-Hampshire, mentioned in its history. He was a man of sound understanding, refined taste, enlarged views, and a dignified spirit. His manners also were elegant, and his disposition enterprising. Agriculture in this province, owed more to him, than to any other man. He also originated the formation of new roads, and the improvement of old ones. All these circumstances rendered him very popular; and he would probably have continued to increase his reputation, had he not been prevented by the controversy between Great Britain and the colonies. As the case was, he retired from the chair with an unimpeachable character, and with higher reputation than any other man, who at that time held the same office in this country." Soon after he left this province, he went to England, and was there created a Baronet, and was appointed Lieutenant Governor of the British province of New-Brunswick.

October 18th. Several British armed vessels, commanded by Captain Mowat, set fire to, and partly consumed the town of Falmouth. It was expected that they would proceed to this town for a similar purpose. The inhabitants were in continual alarm for several days. A violent storm prevented the ships from going to sea. Sunday morning the 22d, the wind changed, and the weather became pleasant. Every thing in town

was in the greatest confusion. A great number of teams from the neighbouring towns, came to the assistance of the inhabitants, who generally sent their goods and furniture to a distance for security; and many, not thinking themselves safe here, removed their families into the country, and remained there till the spring. Brigadier General Sullivan was sent by General Washington, to take command of the militia, and defend the harbour.

The provincial convention at Exeter determined that the public offices, which had always been kept in this town, should be removed to Exeter, as a place of greater security. They appointed Ebenezer Thompson, Secretary, instead of Theodore Atkinson, Samuel Brooks, Recorder of Deeds, and Nicholas Gilman, Treasurer, instead of George Jaffrey.

The convention just before the expiration of their term, issued writs to the several towns in the province, to send representatives to a provincial Congress, which was to meet at Exeter on the 21st of December. The members were chosen for one year, and authorized to transact such business, and pursue such measures, as they should judge necessary for the public good, and to resolve themselves into a House of Representatives, if such a form of government should be recommended by the General Congress. This town sent three representatives.

The number of inhabitants in this town were computed at four thousand, five hundred and ninety.

The war put at end to all commercial intercourse with Great Britain and its dependencies, with whom the trade of this town had been almost exclusively carried on. Lumber, beef, fish, oil, and live stock, were the principal exports, and these were generally sent to the British West-India islands; and in return, rum, sugar, molasses, and coffee, were brought back. Ship-building was carried on extensively on the several branches of the river, for merchants in this town, who paid the builders principally in goods. The ships were sent to the West-Indies, their cargoes disposed of, and the proceeds remitted here in smaller vessels. A cargo of sugar was sent on freight in the same ships to England, where they were sold, and the proceeds, with the freight money, were paid to the merchants there for cordage, anchors, canvas, and other goods, which they had advanced on credit the preceding year. Some merchants in this town built and sent off in this manner, ten or twelve, and in one instance, thirteen ships in a year. They were usually from two to three hundred tons burthen. This was profitable business, and left, at the commencement of the war, a large balance due to the merchants in Portsmouth. Considerable trade was carried on with the southern provinces, where corn, rice, flour, pork, and naval stores, were received in exchange for West-India goods.

In all the royal grants of land, the pine-trees of certain dimensions were reserved for the use of the navy.

Agents were employed to procure these trees to be roughly formed into masts and spars, and delivered here, ready for shipping; government sent ships to transport them to the places, where they were wanted. Several of these mast-ships have been laden here in a year. The agents made large fortunes by this business; but the labourers, who felled the trees, and brought them to market, were always poor and dependant. Husbandry was much neglected by those, who followed the lumber trade. Corn and pork were not raised in sufficient quantities for the consumption of the country. These articles were imported from Connecticut, and other southern ports.

No manufactories of any importance had been established in this town. Works for refining sugar, and a brewery were set up, but they did not succeed. There were three ropewalks, but these were insufficient to the demand for cordage. Four or five tan yards supplied the town with leather, but very small quantities of it were exported. The saw-mill, erected by Mr. Cutt at the head of Islington-Creek, was taken down, after the timber in the neighbourhood had been cut away. The grist-mill was suffered to decay, after Mr. Livius built his mills at the entrance of the creek.

About the beginning of the eighteenth century, Mr. John Pray erected a wind-mill on the hill, opposite to the place where the gaol now stands, which was afterwards called wind-mill hill. It stood nearly fifty years.

A ship, or brig was loaded early in the season every year at the Isles-of-Shoals for the Bilboa market, with fish of a superior quality, caught in the months of December, January, and February in the open sea, several leagues from the coast. This species of fish is very distinctly marked—The backs are of a grey colour, the bellies, white; it appears only in the winter months, and does not mix with other species of the codfish; its shape is also different. Of this kind or species of fish, is prepared the dumb or dun fish, for which the Isles-of-Shoals have been so long celebrated. It is not fit for use, till the month of August, when, after undergoing a fermentation, it changes its colour, and assumes an earthy hue; at which time it is sold for double the price of other fish. It is a singular fact, or supposed fact, that the different species of codfish, keep in separate shoals; so that a good judge of fish can, on inspection, say with considerable accuracy that this fish was caught in shore near the rocks; that on Cashees-Ledge—This at Cape Sables, and another sort, at New-Foundland banks; but why this excellent fish should visit our cold coast in winter, whether in search of smaller fish, or for feeding on the sea-grass, it is difficult to determine.

1776.

Matthew Livermore was born at Watertown, in Massachusetts, the 14th of January, 1703, and was educated at Harvard College, where he was graduated in 1722. The selectmen had applied to the officers of the College, to send them a young graduate, qualified to teach a grammar-school, who was willing to engage in that business, for ten years. They recommended Mr. Livermore, who came here in 1724, but stated to the selectmen his intention of studying law, and reserved liberty to quit the school as soon as he was qualified for admission to the bar. He continued to instruct the school seven years, and was sworn as an attorney at law, in 1731. There was at that time no regularly educated lawyer in this town, and soon after Mr. Livermore's admission, Governor Belcher appointed him Attorney-General for the province, and Advocate for the King in the Courts of Admiralty. This office was very lucrative, and Mr. Livermore stated to the Governor, that he would not accept the office of Attorney-General, which was vexatious and unprofitable, unless he could likewise be appointed Advocate. His sensibility was much excited, when in the course of his official duties, he was instrumental in procuring the capital punishment of any of his fellow creatures ; and during his practice, he was three times called to discharge this painful task. He was correct in his practice, and faithful to his clients.

He regarded the profession, as honourable and useful, but more exposed than many others to powerful seductions from the paths of moral rectitude. He was serious in his deportment, exemplary in his conduct, and firm in his belief of the truths of the gospel. His infirmities, both of body and mind, disqualified him from attending to any business several years before his death, which took place on the 14th of February, the present year.

The provincial Congress adopted a form of government, in which the legislative and executive powers were vested in a Council and House of Representatives. Notwithstanding they were authorised to take this step by their several constituents, a number of persons here, alarmed at this proceeding, procured a meeting to be called, and remonstrated against their establishing any government at present, lest it should be construed as a design to throw off their allegiance to Great Britain, and become independent, and they should thereby forfeit the friendship of those, who had espoused the American cause in England.

The *Raliegh*, a frigate, pierced for 32 guns, was launched here on the 21st day of May. She was built at the north end on Rindge's wharf, under the inspection of Thomas Thompson, Esq. by Messrs. Hackett, Hill, and Paul, master builders, and her hull was completed in sixty days after her keel was laid.

On the 4th of July, Congress published the declaration of Independence; which was received in this town with lively expressions of joy, notwithstanding their former votes. It was publicly proclaimed here on the 18th.

Since Doctor Langdon left the north parish, the desk had been supplied by various persons. This year they invited the Rev. David Mc'Clure to settle with them as their pastor, but as there was considerable division in the parish, he declined accepting the invitation.

1777.

The Rev. Ezra Stiles, D. D. pastor of a church at Newport, had been obliged to leave his people, when the British troops took possession of that place. The north parish requested him to supply their desk, and carry on the work of the ministry with them, which he agreed to do for one year, unless he should be able to return to his people at Newport before the expiration of that term. He preached his first sermon here the 6th of April, and removed his family to this place in May following. The parish had procured a house for their accommodation, and received them with "kindness and hospitality."

On the 2d of June, towards the close of the day, heavy showers of rain arose, attended with thunder and lightning. Mrs. Catherine Clark, who lived at

the north end of the town, went to a window, which she opened, to observe the motion of the clouds, and was struck with a flash of lightning, which instantly killed her.

July 17th. The General Court divided the whole militia of the state into two brigades ; and gave the command of the first to William Whipple, and of the second, to John Stark. In the month of August, Brigadier General Whipple marched with a great part of his brigade, and a large number of volunteers to the northern army, to oppose Burgoyne. He surrendered soon after their arrival in camp, and General Whipple was selected as one of the officers to guard the captive troops to winter-hill near Boston, the place of their destination.

Major Edward Sherburne, Aid de Camp to General Sullivan, was killed in the attack made on the British army at Germantown, the 4th of October.

The Ranger, of 18 guns, was built on Langdon's Island, by order of Congress, under the direction of Colonel James Hackett.

1778.

March 16th. The town determined to establish a hospital for inoculating persons with small-pox. A committee was appointed to apply to the committee of safety for leave to inoculate, which was granted. The Pest, Henzell's, and Salter's Islands, were fixed upon, as suitable places for the hospital. Regu-

lations were established for the government of it, and the whole was put under the care of a committee, who were to give permission to the surgeons, or physicians, to inoculate. No person was allowed to visit the hospital without leave from the committee, nor to be inoculated without a written license from them ; and previous to obtaining the license, he was obliged to deposit in the hands of the committee a sum sufficient to defray all the expense. No person was allowed to leave the hospital in less than twenty-one days after inoculation, nor until he had procured a certificate from his physician, that he was free from infection, and was thoroughly cleansed by a person, appointed for that purpose by the committee. The physicians were allowed eight dollars for each patient under their care, excepting every tenth person, who was a pauper sent by the committee, and who was inoculated and attended through the disorder gratis. There were two classes carried through this disorder, containing about four hundred and twelve persons in all, at the expense of sixteen dollars each.

In the month of June, Nathaniel Adams and John Parker, jr. completed a survey of the town, and made a plan of it. At their request the town appointed a committee to name the streets, which was accordingly done, and the names entered on the plan. They presented the plan to the selectmen for the use of the town, who placed it in Union Hall.

A detachment of militia under General Whipple, accompanied by a large number of volunteers from this town, joined General Sullivan in the invasion of Rhode-Island, which was in possession of the British.

Doctor Stiles had been elected President of Yale College in Connecticut, of which he received official information the last autumn. Whilst he had this appointment under consideration, the north church and parish on the 27th of January, unanimously invited him to settle with them in the work of the ministry. On the 18th of March, he informed the society, that he had concluded to accept the presidency, and should be obliged to quit them. About the middle of June, he took leave of his friends here, gratefully acknowledging the many favours and testimonies of their friendship and affection, and removed with his family to New-Haven.

He was born at North-Haven, in Connecticut, the 10th of December, 1727, was educated at Yale College, and was graduated in 1746, and at that time, "he was esteemed one of the most perfect scholars, that had ever received the honours of that seminary." He was chosen a tutor in 1749, and having made some proficiency in the study of divinity, commenced preaching. He had a fine classical taste, and a familiar acquaintance with the latin language, which he wrote with great facility in a pure and elegant style. He was troubled with a

hectic complaint, on which account he found preaching prejudicial to him. He therefore determined to quit that profession, and turned his attention to the law. He was admitted to the bar in 1753, and continued in the practice of the law two years; during which time he pursued his studies with unremitting perseverance for the purpose of gaining an extensive knowledge of that science. In May 1755, the second church and congregation in Newport gave him an unanimous call to settle with them in the ministry, which, by the advice of his friends, he accepted. In 1765, he received the degree of Doctor in Divinity from the University of Edinburgh. He continued at Newport until his congregation were dispersed by the British taking possession of that place in 1776. The next spring he removed to this town. His great learning and eloquence, his easy and polite address made him very popular, and the people parted with him with great reluctance. He was an accomplished gentleman; affable, mild, and pleasing in his manners, and entertaining in conversation; his company was courted by all ranks and ages in society. "Doctor Stiles had every literary honour, which his country could bestow upon him; was a member of many learned societies abroad, and was the intimate friend and correspondent of the first characters in Europe and America."

Doctor Stiles died at New-Haven, the 12th of May, 1795.

1779.

After Doctor Stiles left the north parish, they invited Joseph Buckminster to settle with them in the ministry ; which invitation he accepted. He was ordained the 27th of January.

Congress had recommended to the several states “to confiscate and make sale of all the real and personal estates of such of their inhabitants, and other persons as had forfeited the same, and the right to the protection of their respective states ; and to invest the money, arising from the sales, in continental loan certificates, to be appropriated as the respective states should direct.” This subject came before the legislature of New-Hampshire in the month of March, and they were proceeding to carry this recommendation into effect. At the request of thirty very respectable inhabitants, a town-meeting was notified and very fully attended, as soon as it was understood that the General Court were about adopting this measure. The town remonstrated against it in the strongest terms. To shew the impolicy of the measure, they stated that the balance due from Great Britain to this state, was very large ; that the British government would retain that balance to the ruin of many worthy citizens, who remained among us ; that the real estate belonging to British subjects was permanent, and increasing in value, and always under the controul of the state ; but when sold, the proceeds would be liable to em-

bezzlement, or to be otherwise lost. With respect to the absentees, it was unjust to condemn them unheard; and to confiscate their property without a trial, was contrary to the principles of civil liberty, for which we were contending. The town instructed their representatives to use their influence against passing the act, or if it were already passed, to endeavour to procure its repeal.

The Honourable Theodore Atkinson departed this life on the 22d September, aged eighty-two years. He was the son of the Honourable Theodore Atkinson, was born at New-Castle, December 20th, 1697, and was educated at Harvard College, where he was graduated in 1718. Soon after he left college, he received a commission as Lieutenant at the fort, and in 1720 was appointed Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, which office he held several years, and during that time, made himself acquainted with the forms of legal proceedings, and was afterwards admitted to practice, as an Attorney at law. Before he was thirty years of age, he was sent to Canada, as one of the commissioners to procure the release of the prisoners, and to remonstrate with the Governor of that province, against his exciting the Indians to war. For many years he had the command of the first regiment of militia in the province, and was several times called into actual service, during the war with the French and Indians. He held the offices of Collector of the Customs, Naval Officer and Sheriff of the province.

In 1734, he was admitted to a seat in the Council, and in 1741, was appointed Secretary of the province; which office he resigned after several years, in favour of his son, who succeeded him. He was one of the delegates to the Congress, which met at Albany in June 1754. Immediately on his return, he was appointed Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Judicature, and after the death of his son in 1769, was reappointed Secretary of the province; and continued to exercise these offices until the revolution. Colonel Atkinson was a person of intelligence and lively imagination; he was remarkably fond of wit and repartee, and on this account encouraged a familiarity with persons of the same habits and disposition, notwithstanding a difference in rank or station in life, or a dissimilarity in other respects. This induced him to take a person named Joseph Moses with him as a waiter, when he was sent as Commissary to the army; he knew very well that Moses would not be obsequious as a servant, but would afford him amusement by his wit. Captain John Chamberlain, the representative from Merrimack, was of this character; Colonel Atkinson once asked him what had been done with a certain act which had been sent down from the Council; Chamberlain told him, that there were objections to it in the House, and that it would not pass. Atkinson said "I wish you were all in Heaven." Chamberlain replied, I should have no objection, only that it would be an eternal separation from the honourable

his Majesty's Council. In his last will he gave a legacy of two hundred pounds sterling to the Episcopal church in this town, the interest of which he ordered to be expended in bread, which was to be distributed on Sunday to the poor of the parish.

1780.

The 19th day of May was remarkable for its uncommon darkness. The morning was cloudy, attended with a little rain. Between ten and eleven o'clock the darkness increased, and began to assume the appearance of evening. Fowls went to roost, and cattle collected round the barn-yards, as at the approach of night. Before noon it became so dark, as to be difficult to read without a candle; and lights were necessary at dinner, and to transact the ordinary work of a family through the afternoon. The evening was enveloped in total darkness; the sky could not be distinguished from the ground. The clouds began to separate, and the vapours to disperse a little before midnight, and some glimmerings of light appeared. The next morning was cloudy, but not unusually dark.

For several weeks previous there had been extensive fires in the woods, and the westerly wind had driven the smoke and cinders, with which the air was charged, all over the country. On the morning of the 19th, the wind came in various directions, but principally from the eastward, and brought with

it a thick fog ; these counter currents meeting, stopped the progress of the clouds, and formed different strata of them ; and as light is always reflected from the surface, they became more impervious to it, than a more dense cloud, which presents only one surface. The atmosphere was likewise filled with clouds of smoke and cinders, as well as with vapour, which gave them a dirty yellowish hue. Pieces of burnt leaves were continually falling, and “the rain water was covered with a sooty scum.” The darkness extended throughout New-England, and was observed several leagues at sea.

1781.

The Honourable William Parker departed this life April 29th, aged seventy-seven. He was born in this town in the year 1703, received the rudiments of his education in one of the public schools, and, at the age of fifteen, became an apprentice to his father, who was a tanner. He made himself thoroughly acquainted with that business, but relinquished it soon after he came of age, and was employed for several years as master of one of the public schools. In his leisure hours he pursued the study of the law, and was admitted to the bar in the year 1732. When the commissioners met at Hampton in 1737, to settle the line between this province and Massachusetts, they appointed him their Clerk. He afterwards received a commission

from Governor Belcher to be Register of Probate, and his knowledge of the law, enabled him to discharge the duties of that office with great ability. He was also appointed Surrogate Judge of Admiralty, and was for many years, the only notary public in the province. In 1765, he was elected one of the representatives to the General Assembly, and was reelected every year afterwards until 1774. In August 1771, he received a commission, appointing him one of the Justices of the Superior Court of Judicature, for the province; which office he held until the commencement of the revolution, when the royal authority ceased here, and all who held offices under the King, were obliged to relinquish them. Judge Parker was esteemed a well read and accurate lawyer; he had diligently studied the law, not only as a profession, but as a science. While at the bar he was consulted and his advice relied on in the most important cases, which came before the Courts. But his studies were not confined entirely to the law. He gave much of his attention to classical literature, and the belles-lettres, in which he made great proficiency. In 1763, the corporation of Harvard College, conferred on him the degree of Master of Arts, and in their vote, they direct it to be expressly mentioned in his diploma "*pro meritis suis*, although he never had a public education." In his diploma it is expressed "*licet non Academicæ instructum, Generosum, nihil ominis in rebus literariis scil: Classicis Philosophicis, &c. egregie erudi-*

tum." He became very early a professor of religion, and was admitted a member of the north church, of which he was afterwards one of the deacons.

On the 15th of March about noon, the town was alarmed by the cry of fire ; which broke out in the barn of Nathaniel Treadwell, situated on Fetter-lane. It was kindled by some children, who were playing with fire in the barn. The flames communicated to Mr. Treadwell's house, which was entirely consumed. From his house they extended across the lane, to the gaol which stood at the corner of Prison and Fetter-lane, which was likewise consumed. The stable, wood-house, and other buildings of the honourable Woodbury Langdon, which stood near the gaol, took fire, and together with his dwelling house, were laid in ashes. The gaol, being built of oak timber, made the fire intensely hot ; and it was with difficulty, that the engine men could support the heat a few minutes at a time, to prevent Colonel Whipple's house from taking fire. But being frequently relieved, they kept a continual stream of water pouring on the end of the house next to the gaol, and by that means arrested its progress.

1782.

March 25th. The town gave permission to the Physicians, Ammi R. Cutter, Joshua Bracket, Hall

Jackson, and John Jackson, to open a hospital on Henzell's Island, under such rules and regulations as shall secure the town from danger, provided said hospital shall be no expense to the town.

On the 3d of June the town remonstrated against the act passed at the last session of the General Court, for confiscating the estates of British subjects and absentees, as impolitic and unjust; and instructed their representatives to use their most strenuous endeavours to obtain its repeal.

The gentlemen of the town, upon the recommendation of the General Assembly, appointed Thursday the 20th of June, for the celebration of the birth of the Dauphin of France; as a compliment to his most Christian Majesty, the great Ally of the United States. The day was ushered in by the ringing of bells, and display of colours. At noon, a salute was fired from the forts, and answered by the batteries in town. A large collection of gentlemen partook of a cold collation at the State-house, and drank some suitable toasts, prepared for the occasion, which were accompanied by the discharge of cannon. At sunset the salutes were repeated by the forts and batteries. In the evening the ship *America*, then on the stocks, was beautifully decorated and illuminated; various kinds of fire-works were displayed, and every method was adopted to express the joy of the inhabitants on this auspicious event.

The ship *America*, pierced for 74 guns, was launched on Tuesday the 5th day of November, at Rising-Castle, an island belonging to the honourable John Langdon, who was the agent for building her. She moved majestically on her ways to her destined element, without any accident, amidst the rejoicings of an immense number of spectators, who lined the shores ; this ship does great credit to Colonel James Hackett, the master builder, and the other workmen employed in constructing her. Congress, finding it difficult to procure materials for completing her for sea, made a present of her to the King of France.

On Thursday night, the 7th of November, a violent thunder storm arose, which did considerable damage. The lightning struck the *Auguste*, an 80 gun ship, belonging to the King of France, then lying in this harbour, commanded by Admiral the Count Vaudreuil, which entirely disabled her foremast, greatly injured her fore-castle and decks, killed four men, and wounded five others.

1783.

The provisional articles of peace, between the United States and his Britanic Majesty, had been ratified by Congress ; who directed that they should be made public, by the supreme executive power of the several states. The President and committee of safety of this state appointed Monday the 28th day

of April, for proclaiming the same. The day was ushered in by the ringing of bells. At six o'clock salutes of thirteen guns were fired at the fort, at Liberty-Bridge, and at Church-hill, to which his most Christian Majesty's ship, the *America*, responded in joyful harmony. At ten o'clock religious services were performed in the north meeting-house, before a crowded audience. After a sublime anthem was sung by a select choir, the Rev. Doctor Haven addressed the throne of grace in the most pathetic strains of gratitude for all the mercies bestowed upon this infant nation, for supporting us through a long and distressing war, and for the happy termination of it in our independence. Another anthem was performed, and the Rev. Mr. Buckminster made the concluding prayer in a style of grateful eloquence, suitable to the solemn but joyful occasion. The services were closed by singing another anthem.

At noon the President of the State, attended by several officers of government, and a number of respectable gentlemen proceeded to the State-house, where the proclamation was read by the Sheriff of Rockingham, from the balcony to a large concourse of people, assembled on the parade, who heard it with the most lively demonstrations of joy. An elegant dinner was provided at the Assembly-room, at which the President, all strangers of distinction, and nearly one hundred gentlemen of the town were present. Several other gentlemen partook of

a cold collation at the Council-chamber, and at both places a number of patriotic toasts were drunk. In the evening a splendid ball was given. The Assembly-room and State-house were beautifully illuminated, and fire-works were displayed in a superior style.

1784.

A number of persons, who had embraced the doctrine of universal salvation, frequently met for mutual instruction. This year they formed a society, and Mr. Noah Parker began his religious ministrations. They met at first in the house, which had been built for the Sandemanians. The society afterwards purchased a lot in Vaughan-street, and erected a meeting-house there. Mr. John Murray, of Boston, first preached the doctrine of universal salvation in this town about the commencement of the revolutionary war.

Friday, November 26. A violent storm of rain commenced in the night, and continued until noon. The wind blew strongly from the southeast, and forced in the tide from the sea, which being met by a great *freshet*, swelled the river higher, than it was ever known to rise before, and caused great damage to the wharves and the warehouses, which stood on them. The water flowed into several of them and destroyed considerable property. The wood and lumber which lay on the wharves were

generally swept away ; but what is more extraordinary, a large warehouse which stood on Boyd's wharf, was launched from the wharf, and floated across the creek to the opposite shore.

Wiseman Clagett, Esq. was born at Bristol, in England, in the month of August, 1721, and received an early and liberal education in that country. Having finished his academical studies, he became a student at the Inns of Court, qualified himself for the profession of the law, and after going through a regular course of preparatory studies, was admitted a barrister in the Court of King's Bench. A few years after his admission to the bar, he crossed the Atlantic to the West-Indies ; settled in Antigua under very flattering circumstances, and was cordially received by the principal inhabitants of the island, particularly by a gentleman of fortune, who as an inducement for him to remain there, settled on him a handsome annuity for life. He was appointed a notary public, and Secretary of the island. He discharged the duties of these offices with fidelity, and pursued his professional business there with success for several years, until the decease of his particular friend, and generous patron. He then embarked for this country, and settled in this town. He was admitted an attorney of the Superior Court at the next session after his arrival, and was soon afterwards appointed a Justice of the Peace. In the exercise of this office he was strict, severe, and overbearing. For many years he was the princi-

pal acting magistrate here, and his name became proverbial. When one person threatened another with a prosecution, it was usual to say, "I will Claggett you." He received the appointment of King's Attorney-General for the province the year 1767. He took a very early and decided part in opposition to the oppressive acts of the British Parliament, at a time when a considerable portion of his property, was within the control of government. Previous to the revolution, he removed to Litchfield, where he possessed a large and valuable estate, on the banks of the Merrimack. He represented that town and some of the neighbouring towns, classed with it, several years in the General Court. Being omitted one year, the towns of Merrimack and Bedford elected him their representative, although not an inhabitant of either of those places. He always entertained a grateful remembrance of this mark of confidence and respect, and frequently spoke of it with pleasure. He was for some time a member of the committee of safety, and was active, attentive and useful. He was influential in framing and carrying into effect, the temporary form of government, which was first adopted in New-Hampshire, under which the office of Solicitor-General was created, and Mr. Claggett was the only person, who ever had that appointment; the office ceased at the adoption of the constitution in 1784, a little previous to his death.

He possessed a great flow of wit, which accompanied by his social talents and learning, made him an agreeable companion. He was also distinguished for his classical knowledge. He wrote the Latin language with ease and elegance, and spoke it with fluency. A Latin epitaph in the burying ground at Litchfield on the grave stone of his son, who was accidentally killed by the discharge of a fowling-piece, is a specimen of his writing. It contains some peculiar sentiments, which shew the eccentricity of his genius. There is also a baptismal font in St. John's Church, with a Latin inscription written by him.—He had a fine taste for poetry, and many *Jeux d'esprit*, the productions of his pen, have been preserved by his friends. He did not possess a perfect equanimity of temper, but was subject at times to great depression of spirits. He died at Litchfield the 4th of December the present year, in the sixty-fourth year of his age.

1785.

Some persons are born at the time, when every faculty of the mind can be best brought into action ; when those talents, with which nature has furnished them, can be employed with advantage for the public good. This was the case with the late General Whipple, who was born at Kittery in the year 1730, and received his education in one of the public schools in that town, where he was taught read-

ing, writing, arithmetic, and navigation. From school he went on board a merchantman, and was bred a sailor. Before the age of twenty-one, he had the command of a vessel, and in that capacity performed many voyages to Europe and the West-Indies; and, according to the practice which too generally prevailed in those days, was concerned in the slave trade, and imported negroes from Africa into this country. About the year 1759, he left the sea, and engaged in trade in this town, in company with his brother, under the firm of William and Joseph Whipple; and continued this connexion in business until a short time previous to the revolutionary war, when he quitted all mercantile engagements. Mr. Whipple was possessed of a strong mind and quick discernment, was easy in his manners, courteous in his deportment, correct in his habits and constant in his friendships. He very early took a decided part in favour of his country in their disputes with Great Britain. His townsmen placed the highest confidence in his patriotism and integrity, and frequently elected him to offices, which required firmness and moderation. In the spring of 1775, he was elected a member of Congress, which was to meet at Philadelphia in May, and in the same year, was chosen a delegate to the provincial Congress, which assumed the government after the commencement of hostilities. He was likewise one of the committee of safety for the town, and for the state, and was one of the Council under

the first form of state Government. In 1776, he was again elected a member of Congress, and took his seat in the month of February. At this session of that body, the declaration of independence was made, and the name of William Whipple, with those of the other illustrious signers of that instrument, will be handed down to posterity with every mark of gratitude and respect.

General Whipple was several times called into service with detachments of his brigade, to oppose the British troops. He had with him, at the capture of Burgoyne, a valuable negro servant, imported from Africa, named Prince. On his way to the army he said to his servant, "Should we be called into action, I hope you will behave yourself like a man of courage, and fight bravely for your country." Prince replied, "Sir, I have no inducement to fight, but if I had my liberty, I would endeavour to defend it to the last drop of blood." The General then said to him, "Prince, you shall have your freedom ; from this time you are your own man."— He was again elected a member of Congress, took his seat in the month of October, 1778, and was considered very useful and active. After his return from Congress, he was repeatedly chosen a member of the Legislature of the state. About this time the General began to be troubled with strictures in the breast, which were at times very painful to him. A little exercise would bring on violent palpitations of the heart, which were very

distressing. Riding on horseback often produced this effect, and sometimes caused him to faint. This complaint prevented his engaging in the active scenes of life, and induced him to resign his military command. On the 20th of June, 1782, he was appointed a Judge of the Superior Court of Judicature. A discerning mind, sound judgment, and integrity were deemed essential qualifications, and these virtues General Whipple possessed. He continued on the bench about three years, but his disorder became more painful to him; and in the fall of this year, he was obliged to leave the Court before the circuit was completed. He departed this life on the 10th day of November, in the fifty-fifth year of his age. By his special direction to his brother, Doctor Brackett, his body was opened, and it was found that an ossification had taken place in his heart; the valve was united to the aorta, only a small aperture, the size of a large knitting needle, was open, through which all the blood flowed in its circulation; and when any sudden motion gave it new impulse, it produced the palpitation and faintness, to which he was liable.

General Whipple enjoyed through life a great share of public confidence, and although his early education was limited, his natural good sense, and accurate observation, enabled him to discharge the duties of the several offices, with which he was intrusted, with credit to himself and benefit to the public.

The Honourable Mark Hunking Wentworth, father of Sir John Wentworth, and son of Lieutenant Governor Wentworth, departed this life December 19th. He was bred a merchant, was largely concerned in trade and navigation, had the agency of procuring masts and spars for the British navy, and by these various branches of business, amassed a large and splendid fortune. He was many years before the revolution, one of his Majesty's Council, and was one of the original purchasers of Mason's patent, and in all his transactions was influenced by the most correct and honourable motives. The Legislature of the state, confiscated the estate of Governor Wentworth, and put it under the direction of trustees ; by whose bad management, a great part of it was lost. Confiscated estates were afterwards settled in the Probate Courts. His father's claim was presented, and proved by authentic vouchers before the Judge, but amounting to four times as much as those of all the other creditors, he generously withdrew his claim, that every other person might be paid in full. His benevolence continually prompted him to acts of kindness and liberality. His charity was unbounded ; the poor and distressed always found in him a ready friend and benefactor.

1786.

His Excellency John Langdon rebuilt the bridge over the dock, commonly called Canoe-Bridge, and presented the same to the town.

The Church service had not been regularly performed in Queen's-Chapel since the death of Mr. Brown in the year 1776. The Church had been shut up most of the time during this long period. The parish had employed a lay reader, who officiated nearly a year. They now came to a determination to settle another minister; and in December gave an invitation to the Rev. John C. Ogden, which was accepted. He had been ordained by the Right Rev. Samuel Seabury, Bishop of Connecticut.

On the 31st day of October, the proprietors of the social library, dissolved their society, sold their books at auction, and divided the proceeds.

There was a general complaint in the country of the depressed situation of trade, which was supposed to be owing to the great scarcity of money; and the General Court proposed to remedy the evil, by emitting a paper currency. They submitted the plan, upon which they proposed to issue it, to the several towns in the state. This town was legally assembled on the 6th of November, and expressed an opinion that a paper medium, would increase the difficulties; that it could not answer the purpose of trade; that it would deprive this state of commerce, and drain it of its specie; that the disproportion be-

tween a paper currency and specie, would always cause the former to depreciate ; that if the officers of government were obliged to receive their salaries in paper money, the highest offices would be filled by persons unworthy of the lowest ; that paper money always has promoted, and ever will promote corruption, and a multitude of other concomitant evils, and considering it either in a moral or political point of view, they heartily reprobated it.

1787.

June. Daniel Fowle, Esq. died, aged seventy-two years. He was born at Charlestown in Massachusetts, and served his apprenticeship with a printer in Boston, where he commenced business in 1740, and two years afterwards entered into partnership with Gamaliel Rogers. During this connexion, they published an edition of the New Testament in 12mo. ; the American Magazine, and a newspaper, entitled the Independent Advertizer. This partnership was dissolved in 1750, and Fowle again carried on the printing business by himself. In 1754, he was arrested by virtue of a warrant, signed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, on suspicion of having printed a pamphlet, entitled, "The Monster of Monsters, by Tom Thumb, Esq." which contained some severe reflections on several of the members.

After an examination before the House, they ordered him to be committed to the common gaol, where he was detained two or three days, without permission to see his family or friends, and deprived of the use of pen, ink, and paper. He was greatly injured by this treatment, but could obtain no redress. He soon after wrote and published a particular account of these arbitrary measures, in a pamphlet called “Total Eclipse of Liberty.” He resolved to live no longer under a government, which had deprived him of his freedom, without advertng to the rules of law, and determined to embrace the first favourable opportunity to change his situation. Accordingly, having received encouragement from several respectable inhabitants, he removed to this town in July, 1756, and set up his printing business here. This was the first establishment of the kind ever made in the province. He commenced the publication of the New-Hampshire Gazette the October following, which was continued, with some short interruptions, until his death. In 1764, he took his Nephew, Robert Fowle, into partnership, under the firm of Daniel and Robert Fowle. This connexion continued until 1774, when a difference in political opinions caused their separation. Mr. Fowle did but little business, except printing the Newspaper, the state laws, and a few pamphlets. The Governor appointed him a Justice of the Peace, soon after his settlement here. “He was a correct printer, and industrious. In his

disposition he was pacific, agreeable in his manners, liberal in his sentiments, and attached to the cause of his country."

He had a negro servant, named Primus, who was brought from Africa. This negro, although very illiterate, was a good pressman, and worked at the business in his master's office, until prevented by age. He was upwards of ninety years old at the time of his death.

Mr. Noah Parker died on the 17th of August, greatly lamented, particularly by the society to whom he preached. He was a native of this town, was bred a black and white smith, and made himself well acquainted with every branch of the business, particularly with those parts, which required most ingenuity to execute.

Robert Metlin,* a native of Scotland, resided a number of years in this town, and carried on the business of a baker. He was a very noted pedestrian. He usually bought his flour in Boston, and always travelled there on foot: he performed the journey in a day, the distance being then about sixty-six miles, made his purchases, put his flour on board a coaster, and returned home the next day. He was eighty years of age the last time he performed this journey. At that time this was thought an extraordinary day's journey for a horse. The stages required the greatest part of two days. Colonel Atkinson, with a strong horse in a very light

* Dr. Belknap calls him Macklin.

sulkey, once accomplished it in a day. He set out early in the morning, and before he reached Greenland, he overtook Metlin, and enquired where he was bound. Metlin answered, to Boston. Atkinson asked if he ever expected to reach there, and rode on. Atkinson stopped at Greenland, and Metlin passed him; they alternately passed each other every stage on the road, and crossed Charlestown ferry, in the same boat, before sunset.

When Metlin quitted the baking business, he removed to Wakefield, and died there at the very advanced age of one hundred and fifteen years.

1788.

The convention, to whom the important question was committed, whether this state should adopt or reject the Federal constitution, met at Exeter the 2d Wednesday of February. The honourable John Langdon, John Pickering, and Peirce Long, were delegates from this town. After debating on the subject nine or ten days, the convention adjourned to the second Wednesday of June, then to meet at Concord. At this meeting the debates were continued until Saturday afternoon, when the question was taken by yeas and nays. Whilst the Secretary was calling over the members, and recording their votes, a death-like silence prevailed; every bosom throbbed with anxious expectation. When the votes were counted, there appeared 57 for the adoption,

and 46 against it, leaving a majority of eleven in its favour. This state was the ninth that adopted the constitution; and according to the provisions made in it, the government was to be put into operation. This pleasing and interesting intelligence was received in this town on Sunday morning. Mutual congratulations took place, and public thanks were returned in all the churches. Thursday the 26th of June, was appointed for the celebration of this important event. About 11 o'clock a large concourse of the inhabitants assembled on the parade, and moved in procession through the principal streets in the following order :

A band of music in an open coach and six horses decorated; Husbandmen; a plough drawn by nine yoke of oxen; a man sowing; a harrow; Reapers; Threshers; Mowers; Haymakers, each with their appropriate implements; a man swingling flax; a cart for gathering in harvest; Blacksmiths and Nailers with their forges, anvils, and sledges, at work; Shipwrights with their tools; Caulkers; Rope-makers with a spinning wheel and hemp round their waists, occupied; Riggers; Mast-makers; Ship-joiners; Block-makers; Mathematical Instrument-makers with an Azimuth Compass; Boat-builders at work on a boat nearly completed; Carvers, Painters, Glaziers, and Plumbers; Coopers, trimming casks; Cullers of fish; Steevadores; Pilots with spy-glasses and charts; the ship *Union* completely rigged, armed and manned, under an

easy sail, with colours flying, elevated on a carriage drawn by nine horses, a tenth, (emblematical of Virginia) completely harnessed, led, and ready to join the rest; Ship-Captains with their quadrants; Seamen; Shoremen; Truckmen; Millers; Bakers, preceded by a flag, displaying the baker's arms; Butchers, Tanners, and Curriers; Cordwainers with their lasts decorated; Tallow-Chandlers; Tailors; Barbers; Hatters; Housewrights; Masons; Cabinet-makers; Wheelwrights; Saddlers and Chaise-trimmers; Upholsterers; Goldsmiths, Jewelers, and Silversmiths; Clock and Watch-makers; Coppersmiths; Whitesmiths; Brass founders; Tinmen, with nine pillars and stars on a pedestal; Potters, with a table and wheel at work, nine pillars erected; Brick-makers burning a kiln, others moulding bricks; Leather-dressers; Card-makers with cards; Printers, preceded by two lads with open quires of printed paper, followed with cases and apparatus decorated, and compositors at work; Pressmen employed during the whole procession, in striking off and distributing among the surrounding multitude, songs in celebration of the ratification of the Federal Constitution, by the state of New-Hampshire :

MOTTO.

“ A government of freemen never knows
A tyrant's shackles, on the press t' impose.”

Consuls, Merchants, and Traders; the boys of the different schools with the insignia of their stu-

dies decorated ; the Terrestrial Globe, rectified for New-Hampshire, and decorated by a company of young ladies, who were studying geography, carried by two lads in uniform. In the decorations each state was distinguished ; New-Hampshire in the zenith, and Rhode-Island on the western horizon in mourning.

The Masters of the schools :

MOTTO.

“ Where the bright beams of Federal freedom glow,
The buds of science, in full beauty blow.”

Clergy, Physicians, and Surgeons ; Sheriff, preceded by his deputies ; Judges of Common Law and Admiralty Courts ; Clerks of Courts ; Gentlemen of the bar supporting the Federal Constitution ; The President of the State, and President of the Convention ; Secretaries of the State and Convention ; Members of the Convention ; Members of the Legislature ; Treasurer and Commissary-General ; Militia officers in uniform. Every profession was distinguished by some insignia or badge peculiar to it. All intended to represent that in consequence of this union, commerce, and all the arts dependant on it, would revive and flourish. During the procession several Federal songs, composed for the occasion, were sung, accompanied by the band. A cold collation was prepared at Union-hill, of which the company partook ; and after the repast, nine patriotic toasts were drunk, the artillery fired a salute after each of them ; and the songs were again sung,

accompanied by the band. The procession then formed in the same order, and was saluted by thirteen guns from the artillery ; which was called a Federal salute. On their arrival at the Court-house, a salute was fired from the ship, and the company dispersed. The ship fired another salute, as she passed the President's house.

In the evening the State-house was beautifully illuminated with nine lights at each window, while a large company of ladies and gentlemen on the parade were entertained with music from the balcony. Joy sparkled in every eye, and pleasure was seated in every breast. All seemed to anticipate the happier days, which they were to enjoy under the Federal government.

Doctor Clement Jackson was esteemed one of the most eminent physicians of this town and neighbourhood for many years. He had laid the best foundation for knowledge in his profession, which the limited advantages, he could obtain in this country, afforded. Having a discriminating mind, and being in the habit of making accurate observations, he soon became acquainted with the nature of the disorders prevalent here, and with the best method of treating them. His practice was extensive ; his benevolence universal. He never turned from objects of distress, without making exertions to relieve them ; and always regarded the sufferings of others with tender sensibility. His amiable disposition recommended him to all who knew him ; he was “ a

man greatly beloved.” He died on Friday, the 10th day of October, in the eighty-third year of his age.

George Jerry Osborne, jr. commenced the publication of a paper twice a week, entitled, *The New-Hampshire Spy*.*

Robert Gerrish commenced the publication of a weekly newspaper, entitled, the *New-Hampshire Mercury*, sometime between the years 1780 and 1790, which he continued to publish about four or five years.

1789.

The Independent Society in Pitt-street invited Mr. Joseph Walton to take the pastoral charge of their church and congregation. He accepted their call, and was *ordained* by the church without a Council, or any other assistance, on the 22d of September.

The Watch-house, which stood on the ledge of rocks in Court-street, was taken down and rebuilt on the school-house lot in Buck-street, and the rocks were entirely removed.

October 30th. The President of the United States, on his northern tour, arrived in this town. He was met at the line of the state, by the President and Council of this state, the Marshall of the

*This paper was discontinued early in the year 1793.

district, and a great number of gentlemen of distinction, who waited upon him to this place, escorted by Colonel Cogswell's regiment of cavalry. Colonel Wentworth's independent company of horse met him at Greenland, and joined the escort; at the plains the military officers were drawn up, under command of Major General Cilley, to salute him as he passed. At his entrance into the compact part of the town, he was saluted by the discharge of thirteen cannon, from three companies of artillery in complete uniform, under command of Colonel Hackett. Congress-street, through which he passed, was lined with the citizens of the town, the several trades being arranged alphabetically. "The bells rang a joyful peal, and repeated shouts from grateful thousands, hailed their deliverer welcome" to the town. The windows and doors of the houses, which he passed, were crowded with ladies desirous of beholding the man, whom all delighted to honour. A *Federal* salute was fired from the fort, the ships in the harbour were decorated with colours, and every thing wore the face of joy.

On his arrival at the State-house, President Sullivan and the Council introduced him to the Senate-chamber, from the balcony of which, he gratified an immense crowd of spectators, who covered the parade and the adjacent buildings, and who had collected to pay him their profound respects. Whilst in this situation, several odes, composed for the occasion, were sung in a superior style, accompanied

by a band of music. A large body of troops, under command of General Cilley, passed him in review, and he was then conducted to his lodgings by President Sullivan, the Marshal of the district, and several other gentlemen, escorted by a company of infantry under arms. In the evening the State-house was brilliantly illuminated; thirteen rockets ascended from the balcony, and other fire-works added to the beauty of the scene.

On Sunday President Washington attended divine worship at Queen's-Chapel in the morning, and at the north church in the afternoon.

In the forenoon on Monday, accompanied by General Sullivan, the honourable Mr. Langdon, the Marshal of the district, and the Consul of France, he made an excursion down the harbour; the seamen, who rowed the barge in which the President went, were dressed in white, the other barge was rowed by seamen clothed in round blue jackets. The gentlemen composing the band followed at a short distance and performed several select pieces of music on the water.

The President landed at Kittery, in the district of Maine, and after a short stay, returned by way of Little-Harbour, where he made a visit to Colonel Michael Wentworth, at the romantic seat of the late Governor Benning Wentworth, an abode of elegance and hospitality; from thence he proceeded to town by land. A committee of the town waited upon the President and presented him a congratu-

latory address, to which he returned an affectionate answer.

On Tuesday, an elegant entertainment was given by President Sullivan and his Council to the President of the United States. Many of the officers of government, the Clergy, the bar, and other gentlemen of distinction were present. In the evening the gentlemen of the town gave a splendid ball, which the President honoured with his presence, where he was introduced to a brilliant circle of ladies. Every thing was done to render the visit of their illustrious guest agreeable: every bosom glowed with gratitude at the sight of a man, who had rendered his country so many essential services; every tongue was emulous to speak his praise.

He left town early on Thursday morning to return to New-York.

1790.

The number of inhabitants in this town, as appears by the census taken in pursuance of the act of Congress, is four thousand, seven hundred, and twenty.

On Tuesday night following the 13th day of July, a wicked attempt was made to burn the town. A box, made of boards, about two feet square, open on one side, filled with birch bark, tar, and other combustibles on fire, was set, the open part against the barn of Oliver Whipple, Esq. in Jaffrey-street.

The fire burned nearly through the clapboards and boards of the building, where the box came in contact with it, and the flames ascended to the ridge-pole. The fire was soon discovered, and extinguished before it had done much damage.

1791.

The society, which usually met in the north meeting-house for public worship, was incorporated by an act of the Legislature by the name of the North Parish.

Jacob Sheafe, Esq. died the 26th of June, 1791, in the seventy-sixth year of his age. He was the second son of the honourable Sampson Sheafe ; was born at New-Castle in the year 1715. Having been bred a merchant, he settled in this town, and engaged largely in mercantile business, which he pursued with reputation and success until his death. Governor Wentworth appointed him Commissary of the New-Hampshire forces at the capture of Louisburgh. In 1767, he was elected one of the representatives of this town ; and was reelected every year afterwards until 1774.

John Parker, Esq. departed this life, after a short illness, on the 4th of October. He was the second son of the honourable William Parker, and was born in this town the 16th of November, 1732. He received the rudiments of his education at the grammar-school under the care of the Rev. Doctor Lang-

don, and was removed from school to the Counting-house of Colonel Nathaniel Sparhawk of Kittery Point, who was extensively concerned in navigation and fishery ; with whom he served his apprenticeship under indentures "to learn the art, trade, and mystery of a merchant." After his apprenticeship had expired, he performed a number of voyages as master of a ship. In 1763, he entered into partnership in trade with William Rhodes, under the firm of Rhodes and Parker ; which connexion continued four or five years, but proved unfortunate, owing to some severe losses, which they suffered at sea. Governor Wentworth appointed him Sheriff of the province in 1771, and Sheriff of Rockingham, after the province was divided into counties. When the government was assumed by the people at the commencement of the revolution, he was reappointed by the authority of the state, Sheriff of Rockingham ; and when the Federal Government went into operation, President Washington appointed him Marshal of the district of New-Hampshire. He held these offices during life, and discharged the several duties of them with fidelity and care. He likewise had the direction of an insurance office, and conducted the business of it with accuracy and skill. He was never married, but his house was the asylum of the widow and orphan, and the children he took the charge of, were nourished and educated with paternal care. His benevolence was not confined to his relations, but extended in many instan-

ces to strangers, who partook largely of his bounty.

In the walks of private life, his virtues were conspicuous. He was a social companion, an accomplished gentleman, a disinterested friend. A very numerous and extensive acquaintance mourn his loss.

The Episcopal society, which have usually met in Queen's-Chapel for public worship, was incorporated by an act of the Legislature, by the name of St. John's-Church.

1792.

A bank was established in this town by the name of the New-Hampshire Bank, to continue fifty years, under the management of a President, and seven directors ; with a capital of one hundred and sixty thousand dollars.

1793.

The honourable Leverett Hubbard, died the 2d day of January, aged sixty-nine. He was born in Rhode-Island, and was educated at Harvard College, where he obtained the reputation of a good classical scholar, and received the honours of the College in 1742. He was of a warm, sanguine disposition, and, being disappointed in not having any part assigned him in the public exercises on commencement day, he took a conspicuous place in the gallery, and delivered a severe philippic in Latin against the Presi-

dent; who in vain endeavoured to stop him. The corporation at first refused him his degree, but through the intervention of his friends, granted it afterwards. He studied law in Rhode-Island, but never became eminent as a lawyer. He came to this town about the year 1760, and was soon appointed Controller of the customs; in 1763 he was appointed a Justice of the Superior Court of Judicature for the province, but did not excel as a Judge. He indulged himself in bold flights of imagination. When Mr. West first came to the bar, he was engaged for the demandant in a real action for five hundred acres of land. In Judge Hubbard's address to the Jury, he observed that the cause had been managed in a masterly manner, especially by the young gentleman who appeared for the plaintiff, that he should be willing to give the whole land, if it was covered with money, to be able to argue a cause as he had done, but said he, "I check myself in the thought, for it appears to me like the impious wish of Simon Magus to purchase the Holy Spirit with money." Judge Hubbard was of a very benevolent, friendly disposition, and courteous in his deportment. When the State Constitution went into operation in 1784, he was not reappointed, which left him in very straitened circumstances, and his mind became in some measure deranged, a few years before his death.

A general dissatisfaction having taken place in the minds of his parishoners with the Rev. Mr.

Ogden, in consequence of which, his usefulness was destroyed, it became necessary to dissolve the connexion between them. He was accordingly dismissed on the 30th day of January.

March 26th. The town purchased of John Peirce, Esq. as Attorney of John Fisher, Esq. a lot of land now in possession of James Grouard, near the parade, for the purpose of erecting a market thereon, for the sum of four hundred and fifty pounds.

The town agreed to take a number of shares in the bridge, proposed to be built across Piscataqua river, from Newington to Durham, to the amount of one thousand pounds, provided the shares are not subscribed for by individuals.

The bell at the south parish, having been broken by striking it with a hammer according to the direction of the selectmen, instead of tolling it for funerals; the town authorized the selectmen to pay the wardens of that parish a sum of money equal to the expense of procuring and hanging a bell in the belfrey of the meeting-house of that parish, of the same weight of the present bell, deducting the net proceeds of the sale of the same.

Charles Peirce commenced the publication of a newspaper, entitled *The United States Oracle of the Day*, on the 4th of June.

June 27th. The town appointed a committee, whom they empowered to sell and convey all the land on spring-hill, where the old market stood, and

the lands contiguous, reserving such sufficient street or streets, and water privilege, as they may deem necessary for the use of the town; and to make and execute good and lawful deeds of the same in behalf of the town, with covenants of warranty, to be fully and completely obligatory upon the town.

The proclamation of the President of the United States, requiring the people to observe a strict neutrality towards the belligerent powers, excited different sensations in the minds of the different existing parties. By some, who thought that we were under the greatest obligation to France, and ought to unite with them in all their opposition to Great Britain, it was highly condemned. The more cool and dispassionate part of the community, who dreaded the horrors of war, and thought it for the interest of this country, to avoid the politics of Europe, warmly applauded it.

At a town-meeting, held the 13th of August, the following resolutions were passed.

First—That the inhabitants of this town do heartily approve of the proclamation of the Supreme Executive of the United States, warning all persons to refrain from violating the law of Nations, and declaring the neutrality of the United States, and their disposition to observe a conduct friendly and impartial towards all the belligerent powers.

Second—That in our opinion, the President of the United States, in issuing his proclamation, has acted in strict conformity to the nature and duties

of his office, as the executor of the laws, and guardian of the public welfare; and thereby rendered effectual service to the public in general, and most seasonable relief to the mercantile interest, at a time, when it was doubted in foreign parts whether our shipping would remain neutral or not.

Third—That we are determined to assist, to the utmost of our ability, the Government in maintaining the neutrality and peace of the United States, and will use our best endeavours to detect and bring to justice all persons, who by their arts and proceedings, shall violate the law of nations, and endanger the peace and welfare of the Union.

Fourth—That we rely on the support and energy of the Government of the United States, that our navigation shall be freed from the present depredations and insults committed by the powers at war; and that just compensation shall be made to those who have suffered by such unwarrantable conduct.

Arthur Brown, Esq. L L. D. late a Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin, and King's Professor of Greek, Representative in Parliament for the University of Dublin, in Ireland, presented to the Episcopal Church a very elegant bible, printed at the Clarendon press, in token of his affection and respect for a congregation, of which his grandfather was formerly pastor.

The society of Universalists was incorporated by an act of the Legislature, passed June 17th. This

society gave an invitation to Mr. George Richards to settle with them in the ministry, which he accepted, and commenced preaching to them the 29th of August.

1794.

The Legislature granted a charter, incorporating a number of persons belonging to this town and their associates, for the purpose of building a bridge over Piscataqua river, by the name of the Proprietors of Piscataqua Bridge. Having made every necessary preparation, they commenced the work, the beginning of April, and had it so far completed on the 25th of November, as to be passable; when they began to take toll. The bridge connects the towns of Newington and Durham, just below the outlet of Little-Bay. It is two thousand three hundred and sixty-two feet in length, and thirty-eight feet in width. The river over which it passes is generally upwards of fifty feet deep at high water. From the Newington shore a stone abutment extends several feet into the river. The bridge is then supported by piles, five of which were strongly framed, and braced together, and driven into the bottom of the river. String pieces were laid from the cap of one set of piles to another, and on them the plank or flooring of the bridge was secured. This mode of constructing it, extends as far as Rock-Island, on which a strong stone abut-

ment is built, and another on the shore of Goat-Island; from one of these abutments to the other, an arch is thrown, the chord of which is two hundred forty-four feet six inches. The arch is composed of three tiers of girders, the lower one is sixteen feet from the chord, and twenty feet from the water at the high tide. The second tier supports the planking on which the road passes, which is on a larger circle to facilitate the travelling. The upper tier answers the purpose of railing. There are three sets of these girders, one on each side, and one in the middle of the bridge, which are so braced and framed together, as to make the whole strong and firm. This arch was constructed by Mr. Timothy Palmer, of Newburyport, on a model entirely new, and does him great credit for his skill in architecture. The remainder of the bridge from Goat-Island to the Durham shore, is built on piles, in which is a draw for vessels to pass through, as they go up and down the river.

In constructing this bridge, three thousand tons of oak timber, two thousand tons of pine timber, eighty thousand four-inch plank, twenty tons of iron, and eight thousand tons of stone have been used. The directors appointed Thomas Thompson and John Peirce, Esquires, agents, under whose direction and superintendence, the materials were provided, and the work performed. The whole cost of the bridge was sixty-two thousand dollars.

It is expected that this bridge will be of essential benefit to Portsmouth, as it will open a communication with the country, which could not previously be had, without crossing the river, or some of its branches in boats.

1795.

The parish of St. John's Church, the last year, requested Mr. Joseph Willard, a resident graduate of Harvard College, to officiate for them on probation. The parish, on the 29th of December, gave him an invitation to settle with them in the ministry, which he accepted. On the 22d of February he received Deacon's orders, and on the 24th of the same month, was admitted to Priest's orders, by the Right Rev. Doctor Provost, Bishop of New-York.

The treaty between the United States and Great Britain, had been laid before the Senate, who advised the President to ratify it. While he had it under consideration, a member of the Senate procured it to be published, which caused the President great embarrassment. The country was divided in opinion, as to its operation and effect. This town met for the purpose of expressing their opinion on the subject, on the 16th of July; and after voting, "That it was inconsistent with the interest and honour of the United States to adopt" the treaty; they agreed upon the following address:

"To George Washington, President of the United States of America:

“Sir—Convinced of your inviolable attachment to the interest and happiness of the States over which you preside, and your readiness on all occasions to attend to every just complaint of the people, we, the citizens of Portsmouth, constitutionally assembled in public town-meeting to signify our opinions, relative to the treaty between Great Britain and the United States of America, consented to by a majority of the Senate, and recommended for your ratification, having taken the same into our most serious consideration, beg leave to express our most hearty disapprobation thereof for the following general reasons, viz. :

First—Because that part of the treaty of 1783, securing the payment of debts due to British subjects, is rigorously enforced, while an important article in the same treaty, requiring a compensation for negroes and other property, unjustly removed, is placed wholly out of view.

Second—Because the 9th article confers a privilege on British subjects, which, though expressed in terms reciprocal, yet from the different circumstances of the two nations, not only wants an equivalent, but is a direct invasion of the rights of individual states.

Third—Because the bonds required of commanders of privateers, are wholly inadequate for the purposes for which such provision was made.

Fourth—Because the regulations of trade, commerce, and navigation between the two parties,

contained in the 3d, 13th, 15th, and 17th articles, hold out the most decided advantage to British subjects, and must in their operation prove destructive to American commerce and navigation.

Fifth—Because by the 18th article many articles of export are admitted as contraband of war, which by our treaties with France, Holland, and Sweden are declared free ; by which means, a disposition to aid the British in the destruction of the navies of those nations is fairly implied.

Sixth—Because all the essential advantages, resulting to the United States from a ratification of the treaty, are such as they have a right to demand, either by virtue of the treaty of 1783, or from principles of common justice, was there no treaty existing, while many important privileges are allowed the British, without a counterpart.

Thus have we stated a few of the many objections that might be opposed to the treaty. We forbear entering into a more particular detail, as it would probably be but a repetition of those, which we presume must flow in to you from every quarter, as the guardian and protector of our rights and liberties, and who alone in the present instances, can avert the many evils that threaten our ruin.

We therefore most fervently request that the treaty between Great Britain and the United States, may not receive your ratification, till it undergo such alterations as shall render it conducive to the interest, honour, and lasting peace of our country.”

They voted, That this town heartily approve of the conduct of Mr. Langdon, and his nine patriotic associates, in opposing the ratification of the treaty between Great Britain and the United States of America. And they voted the thanks of this town to Mr. S. T. Mason, a Senator from Virginia, for his patriotism in publishing the treaty unduly withheld by the Senate from the people.

This treaty caused a great ferment among the inhabitants. The other Senator in Congress from New-Hampshire had voted for its ratification. A counter address to the President was drawn up and signed by a large number of individuals. But to prevent its being sent on, two or three hundred of the enraged populace assembled, and armed with clubs paraded the streets, with drums beating, and carrying the effigies of the commissioners, who made the treaty, and the Senator, who voted for its ratification ; insulted many of the signers of the address, broke their windows and fences, injured their trees, and with threats of personal injury and violence demanded the address of the person, who had it in possession. After keeping the town in terror and confusion several hours, they burnt the effigies, and then dispersed. Ten of the principal persons, concerned in this riot, were indicted at the next Superior Court.

In December, a company was incorporated by the name of the Proprietors of the Portsmouth Pier. They purchased the estate at the end of Buck, now

State-street, lately belonging to the honourable Henry Sherburne, deceased, and extended the pier or wharf three hundred and forty feet, and its average breadth is about sixty-five feet; on the south side is a building, three hundred and twenty feet in length, thirty feet in breadth, and three stories high, which is divided into fourteen stores.

At the annual meeting, the town authorized the selectmen to purchase a large fire-engine of the best construction.

Colonel Michael Wentworth died at New-York, the 25th of September, aged seventy-six. He was born at Yorkshire, in England, and was nearly allied to the Marquis of Rockingham, and Earl of Strafford, who were distinguished members of the Wentworth family, in that country. His elder brother, Peregrine Wentworth, inherited the paternal estate, and as is commonly the case there, other provision was to be made for the younger son. Colonel Wentworth accordingly entered the army very early in life, and served under the Duke of Cumberland, in Great Britain, and on the continent. He acted as a volunteer in the battle of Culloden, on the 15th of April, 1745, when the Duke obtained the decisive victory over the rebels, which put an end to the hopes and prospects of the pretender, Charles Stuart. The May following he was in France; and was engaged in the famous battle of Fontenoy, when the French troops, commanded by Marshal Saxe, gained a complete victory over the allied army un-

der command of the Duke of Cumberland, but although the English and their allies were unfortunate in the issue of this engagement, the celebrated solid column in which Mr. Wentworth held a subordinate command, routed the French guards, during the engagement. He continued his connexion with the army, some time after the peace in 1748, by the treaty of Aix la Chapelle, and, having disposed of his commission, he returned to England, and passed a few years with his brother and other friends. He came to this country in 1767, and in 1770 married the widow of the late Governor Benning Wentworth, who possessed an ample fortune, fixed his residence at Little-Harbour, the seat of the late Governor, where he enjoyed during the remainder of his life, *otium cum dignitate*.

He possessed an excellent constitution, which he preserved by frequent exercise. He always rode on horseback, when he had occasion to travel; and generally enjoyed good health, and a fine flow of animal spirits. He thought no man old, notwithstanding he had lived many years, whose mental faculties, vigour, and activity, were unimpaired. He was remarkably fond of music, and excelled in playing on the violin. His manners were those of an accomplished gentleman: his acquaintance with mankind, and social habits rendered him a very pleasing companion.

1796.

The society, which usually worship in the meeting-house in Pitt-street, were incorporated by an act of the Legislature by the name of the Independent Congregational Society.

Mr. Blanchard, the famous aeronaut, sent up a balloon, which ascended very majestically. At a certain height, a parachute was detached from it, which immediately opened and gradually fell to the ground.

1797.

March 10th. The honourable John Sherburne departed this life in the seventy-seventh year of his age. After a night of undisturbed repose, he awoke in the morning at his usual hour, enquired of his servant concerning the state of the weather, gave some directions respecting his domestic affairs, and soon after arose ; and having partly dressed, lay down again on the bed, turned upon his side, and instantly expired, without a struggle or a groan.

Mr. Sherburne was educated a merchant, and followed the profession with reputation and success. He was employed early in life in public business, and for a long series of years was elected representative for this town in the Legislature of the province. He was Register of the Court of Vice Admiralty, and Judge of Probate ; which offices he

held until the commencement of the revolution. He was likewise one of his Majesty's Council for this province. But notwithstanding his holding these several offices under the crown, he was an early, active, and uniform opponent of the measures of the British Cabinet, to bring this country into subjection.

As a professor of religion, he endeavoured to live agreeably to the precepts of the gospel, and to practice those virtues, which are there recommended.

On the 28th of September, died Doctor Hall Jackson, after a short illness, in the fifty-eighth year of his age. In visiting some patients, his sulkey was upset, whereby several ribs were fractured, and a fever ensued, which terminated his life. Doctor Jackson was born in this town, and received the first rudiments of his education in the public schools here. He studied the theory of physic and surgery, under the direction of his father, Doctor Clement Jackson. After completing his studies here, he went to London, and attended lectures in the public hospitals there, to perfect himself in surgery. Upon his return to this country, he opened an apothecary's shop, but his practice as a physician soon became so extensive, that he was obliged to relinquish in a great measure, his business as a druggist, and attend almost entirely to his profession. As a physician, he was skilful; as a surgeon, eminent. No operation of importance was performed for many miles round, without consulting

him, and seldom without his aid. He had great experience in the small-pox; and many hospitals, which were established for inoculating with that disorder, were committed to his care, and he was remarkably successful in conducting his patients safely through the disease. In the obstetric art he obtained high reputation, and was frequently applied to for advice and assistance in difficult cases, by persons who did not generally employ him. He frequently performed the operation of couching, and always with success. Harvard College conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Medicine; and he was elected an honorary member of the Massachusetts Medical Society. He was Grand Master of the Free and Accepted Masons in New-Hampshire, at the time of his decease. His sprightly talents, lively imagination, and social habits, rendered him an agreeable companion; facetious and pleasant in conversation, his friends enjoyed in his company "the feast of reason," with the flow of wit; and the several societies of which he was a member, found their entertainment greatly heightened by his presence.

1798.

January 18th. The *Crescent*, frigate, mounting thirty-two guns, sailed for the Mediterranean. She was built in this port, under the superintendence of Colonel James Hackett, and is esteemed one of

the finest specimens of naval architecture, that ever floated on the waters of the Piscataqua. This frigate is a present from the United States, to the Dey of Algiers, and was supposed, including her cargo, to be worth at least three hundred thousand dollars.

In the summer, an epidemic disorder, commonly called the yellow fever, broke out at the north end. The inhabitants in the vicinity, generally removed, and by that means stopped its extensive progress. The town appointed a committee, consisting of five physicians, and requested them to publish from time to time such regulations for the observance of the inhabitants, as in their opinion may have the greatest tendency to prevent the spreading of the fever. It proved very fatal to those who were attacked with it. At the same time the dysentery prevailed at the south end. From the 20th of July, to the 6th of October, one hundred and seven persons died, fifty-five with the fever, and fifty-two with the dysentery and other disorders. Among the fifty-two, were twenty-nine young children.

The Federal Observer was first published by William Treadwell and Samuel Hart, on the 22d day of November.*

1799.

The Republican Ledger was commenced by George Jerry Osborne, jr. in the month of September.

* This paper was discontinued June 12th, 1800.

The Rev. Timothy Alden was ordained Collegiate pastor with the Rev. Doctor Haven, of the south church and parish, on the 20th of November.

Tuesday, the 31st day of December, was set apart to commemorate the death of the illustrious Washington, who departed this life the 14th of this month. At an early hour all public offices, stores, and shops were closed; business and pleasure were suspended. At 11 o'clock a procession moved from the Assembly-room, to St. John's-Church, in the following order :

The Companies of Artillery, Light Infantry, and Governor Gilman's Blues, with muffled drums, music in crape, arms reversed, side-arms with black bows. Martial music playing the dead march in Saul. The Grand Lodge of New-Hampshire, accompanied by St. John's Lodge, and many visiting brethren, in the habiliments of their order. The Orator and Rector of St. John's-Church; United States' Military Officers; Commissioned Officers of the Militia; Selectmen; Clergy; Citizens and strangers, two and two. When the procession entered the Church, a solemn piece of music was performed on the organ. Rev. Mr. Willard read the service of the Church, and Jonathan M. Sewall, Esq. pronounced an eulogy on the sorrowful occasion. A vast concourse of people attended, and almost every individual of respectability, wore crape as a badge of mourning, and all the shipping in the harbour hoisted their flags half-mast high.

“From heart to heart, the soft infection ran,
All orders wept the great, the Godlike man ;”
One tear pervaded every melting eye,
And mourning thousands heav’d *one* common sigh !

Here pious zeal, and frantic rage were lost,
The only contest, who should weep him most ;
Each different name was swallowed up in one,
That name, the *glorious* name of Washington.

1800.

According to the enumeration, made pursuant to an act of Congress, passed July 9th, 1798, there are in this town, six hundred twenty-six dwelling houses ; of these eighty-six are one story, five hundred twenty-four are two stories, and sixteen are three stories high. The number of inhabitants, by the census amounted to five thousand, three hundred and thirty-nine.

The town erected a building for the market, on the lot purchased for that purpose, near the parade. The building is eighty feet long, and two stories high. The lower story, which is designed for the market is twelve feet high. The upper story, which is fourteen feet high, is designed for public uses, and is called Jefferson-hall. One hundred and forty-five thousand bricks were used in the building, and were laid in thirty-nine days.

A number of persons were incorporated the 19th December, 1797, by the name of the Proprietors of

the Portsmouth Aqueduct. The water is conveyed into town by wooden pipes, from a spring, situated in the outskirts of the town, about three miles distant from the Court-house. The proprietors began to lay the pipes last year, and have now so far completed it, that two hundred and fourteen houses and stores are supplied with water. It is conveyed into most of the streets in town, and the spring yields great abundance for the supply of all the inhabitants. The water is of an excellent quality.

1801.

About half past three o'clock in the afternoon, on Sunday, the first of March, there was a considerable earthquake. The sound appeared to come from the northwest, and continued about thirty seconds. It resembled the rumbling of a coach, passing moderately over frozen ground; and was attended with a tremulous motion of the earth, which was very perceptible in all parts of this town. Some supposed their chimnies were on fire, until their windows began to rattle. In one house a waiter, which stood edgewise under the table, was thrown down, and in another, the small house bell was rung, and in various instances the crockery on the shelves made a gentle clattering. The shock was perceived on board vessels in the harbour; cattle and fowls discovered marks of fear. The weather was mild and pleasant.

1802.

Among the Physicians of this town, who have attained considerable eminence, Doctor Joshua Brackett holds a conspicuous place. He was born at Greenland in May, 1733. In his early youth, he attended the public school in his native town, but as his parents intended him for one of the learned professions, they determined to give him a collegiate education; and placed him under the tuition of the Rev. Mr. Rust, of Stratham. He was there prepared for admission into Harvard College, where he was graduated in 1752. He then applied himself to the study of theology, with an intention to qualify himself for the gospel ministry. Having made some progress in his studies, he was licensed by the association and preached a short time. He was induced to enter on this profession, more to gratify the wishes of his parents, than to follow his own inclinations, and he soon relinquished it for the practice of physic, which was more congenial with the natural bent of his mind. He pursued his medical studies under the direction of Doctor Clement Jackson, who was then at the head of the profession here. The medical student at that time, laboured under many disadvantages, which he would not at present experience. By assiduous attention to his books, with the benefit of seeing Dr. Jackson's extensive practice, Doctor Brackett laid the best foundation

for knowledge in the profession, his opportunities afforded. He had a taste for literature, particularly for those branches, which led to the examination of the works of nature. Having completed his term with Doctor Jackson, he commenced business in this town, and soon obtained the reputation of a skilful and successful practitioner. In 1783, the Massachusetts Medical Society elected him an honorary member, “and in 1791, he was complimented by his Alma Mater, with a medical doctorate.” When the New-Hampshire Medical Society was organized in 1791, he was elected the first Vice President, and in 1793, succeeded Governor Bartlett as President of the society. He continued in that office until 1799, when his declining health obliged him to resign. He had been a zealous promoter, and an active member of this institution. The benefit arising from the regular meetings of members, and their reciprocal communications of their personal experience in extraordinary cases, was very evident, as it would be the means of diffusing their knowledge more extensively. On the first formation of the society, it was intended to establish a medical library, and Doctor Brackett laid the foundation of it, by presenting them one hundred and forty-three volumes of valuable books in that branch of science. When he declined a reelection to the presidency, the society made their “respectful acknowledgments to him for his diligent and friendly attention to its interests, and for his liberal donation

to it.” “His profession, in which he shone with eminence, was his peculiar delight, as the native bias of his soul, led him to the relief of those wants and distresses, which it continually presented to his view. To increase his knowledge and usefulness in it, his reading, which was uncommonly extensive, his observations, which were accurate, and his reflections, which were judicious, were principally directed. In medicine his motto was, *Imitate Nature*. He was extremely attentive to his patients, and spared no pains to investigate the cause and the nature of their maladies, and to afford relief. While a happy general success attended his professional ministration, his tenderness and sympathy with the sons and daughters of disease and distress, were striking traits in his character, and greatly endear his memory.”

Doctor Brackett had a great taste for natural history, and botany, and was very desirous that a professorship in those branches of philosophy should be established at the University of Cambridge. A short time before his decease he requested his amiable consort, who always made his wishes the rule of her conduct, to convey certain property, worth about fifteen hundred dollars, when she should no longer need the use of it, to the corporation of Harvard College, for the above purpose.

Doctor Brackett was appointed Judge of the Maritime Court for this State, at the beginning of the revolutionary war, and held the office until the

duties of it were transferred to the District Court, after the adoption of the Federal Constitution. His health was visibly on the decline, and his constitution gradually decaying for a considerable time before his decease. He resolved at length, to try the efficacy of the Saratoga waters, and visited that place the latter end of June. But finding his disorder rapidly increasing, and that he must soon sink under it, he returned home the 9th of July, and departed this life on Saturday the 17th of the same month. His remains were interred on the Monday following, "and the tears of the widow and the orphan watered his grave."

He was of a mild and placid disposition, social and unaffected in his manners; benevolence was a prominent trait in his character, and philanthropy always regulated every movement of his soul.

The denomination of Christians, usually called Free-will Baptists, formed a society in this town.

Sunday, December 26, about four o'clock in the morning, the town was alarmed by the cry of fire; which was discovered in the building, occupied by the New-Hampshire Bank. Before many of the inhabitants could assemble, the fire burst out through the sides of the house, which was soon enveloped in flames. The fire was communicated to the adjacent buildings with such great rapidity, as to render it impossible to arrest its progress, until a large proportion of the town was laid in ashes. Every building on the parade, except the meeting-

house and Court-house, was destroyed. The upper end of Daniel-street was consumed as far as Captain Elijah Hall's on the north side, and Mrs. Hart's on the south, whose houses were preserved. To the northward the destruction was far more extensive. The buildings on Market-street and Fore-street, as high as Mrs. Whipple's, those on Bow-street, as far as Mr. Cutts' store on Church-hill, those on Cross-street to the top of Dwyer's hill, and those on Ladd-street, except one, fell victims to the devouring flames. The amount of property destroyed was estimated at the sum of two hundred thousand dollars.

The selectmen appointed a committee of five gentlemen to receive such donations as the charitable and benevolent may be disposed to make to those who suffered by the fire, and requested the committee to distribute the same among such of the sufferers as they think proper, and to return an account of their doings to the selectmen.

The donations received by the committee amounted to the sum of forty-five thousand four hundred ten dollars, forty-three cents. And the committee kept an account of the receipts and distributions, which was open for the inspection of every one, who desired to see it.

The honourable George Jaffrey died towards the close of this year, aged eighty-six years. He received a public education at Harvard College, and took his degree of Bachelor of Arts, in 1736. After

leaving College he entered into trade and navigation. In 1744, the Superior Court of Judicature appointed him their Clerk, which office he held twenty-two years. He was admitted one of his Majesty's Council in 1766, and was soon after appointed Treasurer of the province; and discharged the duties of that office until the commencement of the revolution. When the provincial convention ordered all the public offices to be removed from Portsmouth to Exeter, they appointed Nicholas Gilman, Esq. Treasurer, and Mr. Jaffrey paid over to him the sum of fifteen hundred sixteen pounds four shillings and eight pence, being the amount of public monies in his hands.

Mr. Jaffrey possessed a large real estate, and being one of the original purchasers of Mason's patent, the proprietors elected him their Clerk, in which office he continued until his death. He differed in sentiment from the leaders of the revolution, and was several times molested on account of his political opinion. He was a gentleman of the strictest integrity and uprightness of conduct, punctual in all his dealings, and correct in his deportment.

1803.

May 5th. Thursday night, about ten o'clock, the barn of Isaac Shepard, situated near the pound, was accidentally, but carelessly set on fire, by a

traveller who went into the barn with a lanthorn to feed his cattle. The barn was filled with hay, and was soon enveloped in flames. The fire caught the roof of the dwelling house, which stood near, but by the spirited exertions of the citizens, the house was saved without having received much damage.

The Baptist society purchased a lot of land on Prison-lane, on which they erected a meeting-house. At the sale of the pews, it was declared, "That the house shall be open at all suitable times and seasons for the improvement of every ministerial gift, of every denomination, if the preacher shall be of reputable character; which times and seasons, and other discretionary concerns of said society, shall be decided by the deacons of the Church, or by the standing committee of said society."

The Legislature incorporated a society by the name of the New-Hampshire Fire and Marine Insurance Company. Their officers are to consist of a President, Secretary, and twelve directors; their capital stock is to be fifty thousand dollars.

At the same session the Legislature granted a charter to the Portsmouth Bank, which is to continue in operation twenty years, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars. The principal reason assigned for requesting this charter, was, that the New-Hampshire Fire and Marine Insurance Company might have a safe and suitable place to deposit their stock and monies belonging to their office.

The associated Mechanics and Manufacturers of New-Hampshire, were likewise incorporated at the same session. The design of this institution, is to promote and encourage industry; good habits; an increase of knowledge in the arts they profess and practice, and their common interest; to promote good order; to assist each other in times of difficulty, and to add to the dignity, respectability, and prosperity of this useful body of citizens. The society is to consist entirely of Mechanics and Manufacturers; and to gain admission, the candidate must produce a certificate from his master, or some other acceptable person, that he has faithfully fulfilled his engagements as an apprentice; is of a good moral character, and must obtain the votes of two thirds the members present at any regular meeting. Fees for admission are four dollars. The officers of the institution are a President, Vice President, Treasurer, six Trustees, Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Marshal, Deputy Marshal, and standard bearer; all of whom are to be chosen separately by ballot.

The Rev. Timothy Alden formed a plan for making salt of sea-water by evaporation, upon a very extensive scale; and a number of gentlemen associated for the purpose of carrying the same into effect. On the 17th of December they obtained an act of incorporation from the Legislature, making them a body corporate and politic by the name of the Proprietors of the Portsmouth Salt-works.

The management of the concerns of this society, was committed to seven directors; and they erected works for manufacturing salt, at a great expense in Kittery, on the eastern bank of the Piscataqua. After expending large sums of money, the plan proved abortive, and the society was dissolved.

1804.

The Piscataqua Missionary Society was formed in this town the 12th of June. Its object is "the increase of Christian knowledge and evangelical piety: the promotion of the present well being, and eternal salvation of men." The officers consist of a President, Secretary, and a board of Trustees, not exceeding seven, to be chosen annually by ballot: some, but not more than three of whom, to be of the laity. The President and Secretary, to be trustees ex officio. The trustees, to appoint a Treasurer, who is to be under bonds. Every minister may admit members upon their subscribing the constitution, and paying two dollars, and each member shall pay two dollars annually.

A number of ladies associated for the purpose of supporting and educating Female orphan children, from three to ten years of age. Their funds were raised by subscription, and placed under the care of a board of managers. They were incorporated by the name of the Portsmouth Female Asylum.

December 8th. On Saturday evening a large barn belonging to Mr. Moses Brewster, at the plains in this town, was consumed by fire, together with fifteen head of cattle, seventeen tons of hay, and all his farming utensils.

On the Monday evening following, a barn of Mr. Samuel Sherburne, also at the plains and in the same neighbourhood, was entirely consumed by fire, with a quantity of hay, his horse, chaise, and a number of farming utensils. And on Tuesday evening the 18th another barn of Mr. Sherburne's, was also destroyed by fire, with fifteen head of cattle, thirty tons of hay, a quantity of flax, and his remaining farming utensils. The fire had made so great progress in these buildings before it was discovered, and the distance from the compact part of the town was so great, that they were nearly consumed before the inhabitants could reach the place. There is no doubt but that the fire was kindled at each time by an incendiary. The selectmen offered a reward of three hundred dollars to any person, who shall give sufficient evidence against the perpetrator, to convict him.

1805.

Sunday morning, January 13th, departed this life after a long and distressing illness, the honourable Woodbury Langdon, in the sixty-sixth year of his

age. Mr. Langdon was born in this town, and received his education at the public schools here, principally under the tuition of Major Hale. Upon leaving school he went into the counting-house of the honourable Henry Sherburne, one of the most eminent merchants of this place. After spending some time in this situation, he went several voyages to sea, and then established himself as a merchant here. He was enterprising and industrious in his business, and had accumulated some property at the beginning of the American revolution, a considerable part of which, was in England. To secure this property, and to transfer it to this country, he made a voyage to England, after the commencement of hostilities, and returned the year following, having accomplished the object of his voyage. After his return he entered warmly into the politics of the day, and took a very active part in opposition to the British Cabinet. He held many important offices under the State and General Government. He was a member of the Legislature of this State for many successive years, either as a representative from this town, or senator for the district. In 1781, his elegant house in which he resided, was consumed by fire. He was at Exeter attending the General Court, when this catastrophe happened. In 1782, he was appointed a Justice of the Superior Court of Judicature, which office he resigned the year following. Upon the adoption of the State Constitution, he was elected a senator. In 1786,

he was again appointed a Justice of the Superior Court, and held the office four years. But some complaints having arisen that he did not regularly attend the Courts, an impeachment was drawn up against him, and passed by the House of Representatives. The Senate met at Exeter, to try the impeachment, when it was suggested that they had not power to meet in the recess of the General Court, and the trial was postponed to the next session. In the mean time, Mr. Langdon was appointed by the President of the United States one of the commissioners for settling the public accounts; he resigned his office as Justice of the Court, and the impeachment was never prosecuted.

A company associated for building a bathing house; which they placed in Cross-street, on a lot purchased for the purpose; the building is fifty feet long and twenty feet wide, and has three bathing rooms on each side, to each of which, hot and cold water are conveyed by pipes. The company were incorporated by act of the Legislature the 27th of November, 1804. The building was erected the present summer. Tickets for bathing are sold at twenty-five cents each, or five for a dollar.

The honourable John Pickering, LL D. died on Thursday the 13th day of April, in the sixty-eighth year of his age. Mr. Pickering was born at Newington, and was fitted for College by the Rev. Joseph Adams, minister of that place. He was grad-

uated at Harvard College in 1761, and at first, turned his attention to divinity ; but afterwards applied himself to the study of law. He was admitted to the bar and opened an office at Greenland, but shortly after removed to this town, and soon distinguished himself as an advocate and counsellor. In his early age he became a professor of religion, "and was remarkably exemplary in all the walks of private, social, and public life." The wardens and vestry of Trinity Church in Boston, invited him to settle there as a colleague with the Rev. Doctor Walter, but he declined accepting the invitation; preferring the profession of the law, in which he was already established. He supposed it would afford him as ample a field for the exercise of his talents, and give him as good an opportunity of promoting the cause of justice and humanity, as he should have in the ministry. He was candid and liberal in his practice, and faithful to his clients. He never refused to espouse the cause of the injured, notwithstanding in many instances, he had no prospect of pecuniary reward. Always endeavouring to promote the cause of Justice, he was considered an ornament to the bar. Conscious of the rectitude of his own intentions, he was slow to suspect others of being influenced by improper motives. "His temper was placid, his manners gentle, his disposition kind and benevolent, his habits, social. In conversation he was pleasant, instructive, and entertaining, and in his expressions remarka-

bly chaste and elegant." Although abounding in wit, he never indulged it to excite any unpleasant sensations in the bosoms of his friends. He was an honorary member of the Massachusetts Humane Society, and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; and the Government of Dartmouth College conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Laws.

The confidence, placed in him by his fellow citizens, appears by their frequently electing him to some of the most important offices in their power to bestow. He was a delegate from this town to the convention for forming the State Constitution, which was adopted in 1783; and was a very influential member. The public are indebted to him for many important articles in that instrument.

He was likewise a delegate to the convention of this State, which adopted the Constitution of the United States, in 1788. His eloquence, and powers of reasoning probably had great effect, in procuring its adoption. For several years, he held a seat in the Legislature of the state, either as a representative of this town, a counsellor for the county, or senator for the district: In each of these offices, his only object was to promote the public good, and his skill in jurisprudence, enabled him to discern it. After the adoption of the Federal Constitution, Governor Langdon, who was elected a senator of the United States, resigned his office of Chief Magistrate of the state; Mr. Pickering as senior senator,

presided the remainder of the year. In 1790, he was appointed Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Judicature, which office he held until the year 1795, when he was appointed Judge of the District Court of New-Hampshire. His great legal knowledge, his integrity and eminent abilities qualified him for these judicial offices. But alas! the most brilliant talents are obscured when reason is dethroned. A few years previous to his decease, his rational faculties became impaired, and mental derangement succeeded. Whilst labouring under this afflicting dispensation of Providence, he was removed from office; notwithstanding the principles of law, do not hold a person amenable for his conduct, when deprived of his reason. "During his last confinement he had some lucid intervals, and at such times he invariably expressed his firm belief in the Christian religion, the fullest confidence in a future state, and his hope of happiness through the Redeemer."

August 12th. The pastoral relation between the Rev. Mr. Alden, and the south church and parish, was dissolved agreeable to the advice of an ecclesiastical council. The church and congregation gave him a full and unanimous recommendation. The cause of their separation, was the inadequacy of the stipulated salary for his support.

October 5th. Early on Monday morning the barn of Nathaniel Adams was intentionally set on fire by an incendiary, and entirely consumed, with

several tons of hay. Attempts had been made the week previous to burn his dwelling house, and other buildings. Suspicions were strongly, and almost universally excited against a certain person, whom the Attorney-General caused to be arrested and imprisoned in the absence, and without the knowledge of Mr. Adams.

The person suspected remained in prison until the next Supreme Judicial Court, and was then tried and acquitted.

1806.

The Rev. Samuel Haven, D. D. pastor of the south church, departed this life March 3d, in the seventy-ninth year of his age, and fifty-fourth of his ministry. Doctor Haven was born at Framingham, Massachusetts, the 4th of August, 1727. He received a liberal education at Harvard College, where he was graduated in 1749. He early devoted himself to the study of divinity, and by close application, laid the foundation for that eminence in the profession, which he afterwards attained. He soon became popular as a preacher, and at about the same time received invitations to settle in the ministry at Brookline, Massachusetts, and at the south parish in this town. The literary advantages which he would enjoy at Brookline, from its vicinity to the College was a strong inducement for him to settle there, but the unanimity of the parish, and the

prospect of more extensive usefulness in the ministry here, made him give the preference to this town. He was ordained in May, 1752, a short time before he took his degree of Master of Arts. His sermons were in general, "plain, serious, and practical; his applications were warm addresses to the heart and conscience." He was frequently called upon to officiate on occasions where talents, improved by education were required, and he always acquitted himself with reputation. In his visits to the sick and to the house of mourning, he was peculiarly "the son of consolation." Possessing a great degree of sensibility, his feelings were alive to the sorrows of his friends, and the tender sympathy of his nature prompted him to afford them relief. The Doctor had a taste for poetry, and a few occasional pieces, the productions of his pen, which have been published, "shew the liveliness of his imagination, and the warmth of his heart." In 1770, the University of Edinburgh conferred on him the degree of Doctor in Divinity; and several years afterwards he received the same degree from Dartmouth College.

His natural disposition was mild and pleasant, in his religious sentiments he was remarkably catholic towards all denominations of Christians; and his benevolence and candour increased with his increasing years.

Mrs. Haven attended him in the closing scenes of life, and performed those offices, which are expect-

ed from a tender and affectionate wife. After having discharged these duties, and seen him close his eyes in death, she sunk under the weight of affliction, and died the next day. They were both deposited at the same time in the tomb under his pulpit, and the Rev. Doctor Buckminster preached upon the sorrowful occasion.

The pastoral relation between St. John's Church and the Rev. Joseph Willard, was dissolved by mutual consent the 20th day of March, and Mr. Willard removed to Newark, in New-Jersey.

Monday, June 16th. The attention of the inhabitants of this town and its vicinity was attracted by an unusual, but splendid phenomenon, a total eclipse of the sun. The day was uncommonly fine; not a cloud was seen in any part of our hemisphere. The air was dry and clear; and all nature yielded the fairest opportunity for observation; but there were no preparations made here for observing it with accuracy. The eclipse began a few minutes after ten in the morning, and continued till nearly half past twelve. Its duration was about two hours, forty four minutes. The total obscuration continued upwards of four minutes, during which time the moon was surrounded by a luminous ring; the outer edge of which, was not well defined, but was irregular or indented, it was of a pale white colour, and vivid coruscations appeared to issue from it. As the eclipse advanced, a cold chilliness affected the air, the thermometer fell several degrees, fowls

went to roost, several stars of the first and second magnitude were seen with the naked eye. Venus was visible more than half an hour; a brightness, resembling twilight, surrounded the hemisphere ten or fifteen degrees above the horizon, and every thing had the appearance of the approach of night. The whole scene was sublime and beautiful. Total eclipses of the sun rarely occur, and still more rarely in places where they can be observed. One took place at London the 22d of April, 1715, which was accurately observed by Doctor Halley, who remarks, that there had not been a total eclipse of the sun at London, since the 20th of March, 1140.

Wednesday morning, December 24th, between the hours of five and six, a fire broke out in a store, situated on Bow-street, occupied by Stephen Little. Before many of the inhabitants could be assembled, the flames had made so great progress that there was no possibility of saving it. The fire communicated to a store on the west, belonging to the heirs of the honourable George Jaffrey, deceased, one apartment of which, was consumed. To the eastward, it extended to the dwelling house and cooper's shop of Mr. James Day, which were consumed with all the intermediate buildings. The stores were generally full of merchandize, most of which was destroyed or lost. During the conflagration, some burning shingles or other light stuff, lodged on the steeple of St. John's Church, and set it on fire. The most powerful engine could not

throw water high enough to extinguish it. An attempt was made to cut down the steeple, but did not succeed. The fire reached the main body of the church, and it fell a sacrifice to the devouring flames. The private property destroyed by this fire, was estimated at seventy thousand dollars. A munificent public contributed to the relief of the sufferers four thousand three hundred dollars, which were distributed among the most necessitous. The fire is supposed to have originated from a hearth, which was only one thickness of brick, laid on timbers. Several buildings were taken down to stop the progress of the fire; for which the town, in its corporate capacity, paid the individuals, who owned them, their estimated value.

December 25th. The parishioners of St John's Church, met in the north meeting-house to celebrate Christmas. The Church service was performed by a lay reader, and the Rev. Doctor Buckminster preached a very appropriate sermon on the occasion, from the words, "Our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee, is burnt up with fire."

1807.

The proprietors and parishioners of St. John's Church, held a meeting at the east chamber of the Court-house, on the 10th day of January, and authorized a number of persons, who had subscribed for the purpose, to erect a chapel on the same lot of

land, where their former chapel stood, and empowered them to make sale of all the seats and pews to be erected in said chapel, for their own use and benefit.

The south parish, being destitute of a minister at this time, very generously offered the use of their meeting-house to the Episcopal Church, and the two societies united in public worship through the summer.

On Wednesday, the 24th of June, the corner stone of St. John's Church was laid by the most Worshipful Thomas Thompson, Esq. Grand Master of Masons in New-Hampshire; assisted by the Grand Lodge and many other brethren of the order.

A procession was formed at the Lodge Room, which moved to the site of the church, in the following order :

Washington Lodge;
St. John's Lodge;
Band of Music;
Principal Architect with the plate;
Architects with implements;
Subscribers for rebuilding the Church;
Committee of the Subscribers;
New-Hampshire Military Officers in town;
United States Military Officers; Selectmen of Portsmouth;
New-Hampshire Civil Officers in town;
United States Civil Officers;
Gentlemen of distinction;
Foreigners of distinction;
Clergymen;
Grand Lodge;
The Governor and his aids, immediately preceding the
Grand Master.

The ceremony commenced at high twelve, by singing an ode; then the Grand Master, assisted by the craft, proceeded to lay the corner stone in ample form; under which, were deposited the coins of the United States, medals of the illustrious Washington, and a silver plate with the following inscription :

A. D. 1732,
 Queen's Chapel was built on this spot;
 A. D. 1791,
 It received the name of St. John's Church,
 by act of incorporation;
 December 24, 1806,
 It was burned to the ground;
 June 24, 1807, A. L. 100DCCCVII,
 This Corner Stone was laid in ample form,
 by Thomas Thompson, Esquire,
 Grand Master of Masons in New-Hampshire,
 duly assisted
 By the Grand Lodge, and St. John's Lodge, No. 1;
 And honoured by the presence of
 John Langdon, Esq. Governor of the State,
 and the principal Citizens of Portsmouth;
 XXXIst year
 of the Independence of the United States of America;
 Thomas Jefferson,
 President.

ON THE REVERSE.

This plate, with the medals and coins,
 were presented
 By St. John's Lodge, No. 1,
 Portsmouth, New-Hampshire.

The gold, silver, and copper coins and medals, the bank bills and written inscription, were all hermetically sealed in separate glass bottles by the Grand Secretary.

Lyman Spaulding, M. D.

Andrew Gerrish, Sculpt.

An oration was then delivered by the Grand Chaplain, an ode composed for the occasion, was sung, and the procession returned in the same order.

The attack made by the British ship *Leopard*, upon the United States ship *Chesapeake*, off Cape Henry, excited great alarm and resentment throughout the United States. A large and respectable meeting of the inhabitants of Portsmouth, and the adjoining towns, was held at the State-house in this town, on the 13th of July, when the following resolves were passed :

Resolved, unanimously, That we view the treacherous, unprovoked, and dastardly attack of the British ship *Leopard* on the United States frigate *Chesapeake*, while in the confidence of friendship she was trusting to a state of peace, as set forth in the President's proclamation, to be an act of hostility against the sovereignty and independence of our country, which ought to excite the indignation and resentment of every American citizen.

Resolved, unanimously, That the measures adopted by our administration, are in our opinion, wise, prudent, and dignified, and that we will cheerfully submit to any sacrifices, which the necessity of the

times may require, in giving all possible support to them and to all others, our government may think proper to pursue for obtaining all honourable reparation, for the injuries and insults our nation has suffered.

Resolved, unanimously, That the prompt, manly and patriotic measures taken by our brethren of Norfolk, Portsmouth, Hampton, Richmond, and their vicinities, before the will of our government could be known, were highly honourable to themselves, and merit the thanks of every friend to American independence.

Resolved, unanimously, That whereas the effective power of a free nation, essentially depends on the degree of harmony and confidence, that is known to exist between the people and their rulers; that we will consider as enemies to our country, all, who at such a crisis as the present, shall directly or indirectly use means to impede the due execution of such regulations, as our government may see fit to appoint.

Samuel Hale, Esq. A. A. S. was born at Newbury, Massachusetts, in 1718, and was graduated at Harvard College, in 1740. Soon after leaving College, he was engaged as an officer in the Louisburg expedition, and sustained the rank of Major. After the object of this expedition was successfully accomplished, and the army disbanded, he returned to Portsmouth, engaged as instructor of the Latin grammar school, and continued his labours in this

seminary for nearly forty years with great ability, zeal, and effect. He imparted instruction to several thousand scholars, fitted a large number for College, and lived to see among his pupils many of the distinguished men of our country. He was also for some time Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the county of Rockingham, and has represented the town of Portsmouth in the General Court. Early in life he became a member of the Congregational Church, and was highly respected for his piety, integrity, learning, and talents. He died July 10th, 1807, in the eighty-ninth year of his age.

The society for the propagation of the gospel in foreign parts, was possessed of one right of land, in almost every township in this state, lying without Mason's patent, granted to them by the late Governor Benning Wentworth, which lands the society conveyed to nine persons in trust, for the use of the Episcopal Church in this state. The trustees by their deed, dated the 20th day of July, conveyed to St. John's Church, twenty-nine of the above-mentioned rights of land, one tenth part of the income arising therefrom, to be appropriated to the sole use of the person, who shall be elected, and canonically consecrated to the office of Bishop over the State of New-Hampshire, and to the use of his successor in said office of Bishop, and the income and profits of the other nine tenths of said lands to the use and support of a Protestant Episcopal Cler-

gyman or his successor, who shall be regularly inducted Rector of St. John's Church, according to the office established by the General Convention of the Episcopal Churches in the United States. At a meeting of the parishioners of St. John's Church, held the 19th day of September, they voted to accept said deed upon the conditions therein mentioned, and to appropriate the income of said lands accordingly.

On Saturday, the 20th of September, at four o'clock in the morning, Colonel Seth Walker went out for the purpose of shooting pigeons. At the ferryways he took a canoe, or float, and proceeded up the river, it being flood tide, about two miles. Finding himself seized with spasms in the head, he made towards the shore ; and in stepping out of the float, it overset, and he lost his gun. Though very wet, he succeeded in ascending the bank of the river and advanced a few rods into a cornfield, and here he fainted or fell into a fit. The boat was found on the Kittery shore.

Sunday morning, the family being much alarmed, many of his friends, about two hundred in number, went out in search of him, but returned without success, and the general opinion was that he was lost. The probability is, that he continued in a fit, or remained senseless, during the whole of Saturday and Sunday. On Sunday night, or towards day light on Monday morning, he so far recovered his senses, as to attempt to return home. He went in-

to the compact part of the town, and between four and five o'clock, entered Folsom's bake-house, attracted perhaps by the light ; where the people were at work. The bake-house was at the back of Doctor Buckminster's meeting-house, and within sight of his own house. He enquired of the workmen if they knew him, and could tell him where he was, and would conduct him home. This they accordingly did. His clothes were very muddy ; his mind was much disordered, and his recollection imperfect. He remembered going out with his gun in the morning, and taking the boat, but all the intervening time, was a blank in his mind. He insisted upon it, that it was Saturday, and desired his wife to send word to some people that were at work on the highway, under his direction that day, that he was unable to attend them, and that they might disperse. He could not be persuaded that it was Monday, instead of Saturday morning. He was put into a warm bed, and after some time fell asleep ; in which situation he continued several hours. When he awoke, his mind was more composed ; in a few days he was able to attend to his business, and soon after regained his usual health. Doctor Dwight has introduced these facts into his travels because, he says, "it exhibits man in an attitude, which so far as known, is absolutely new."

1808.

Several gentlemen who had followed the sea, or were engaged in maritime pursuits, formed themselves into an association, and were incorporated by an act of the Legislature, June 6th, by the name of the Portsmouth Marine Society. They were empowered to hold real or personal estate, the annual income of which, shall not exceed the sum of five thousand dollars. Two thirds of the members shall consist of such persons as are, or have been masters of vessels, and all members must subscribe the bye laws and regulations. Every maritime member, on his admission shall pay twenty-one dollars fifty cents. Honorary members shall pay five dollars on admission. Five sixths of the income to be appropriated for the relief of decayed and distressed maritime members, the remainder to be added to the permanent fund. The officers of the society are a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and thirteen managers. Their meetings are to be semi-annual, in January and July. The managers are to direct the affairs of the society, and dispose of their funds, and shall meet quarterly. Every maritime member of the society, upon his arrival from sea, shall communicate in writing to the board of managers, his observations respecting the variation of the magnetic needle; the soundings, courses and distances of rocks, shoals, capes, and headlands from each other; currents, tides, and

other things remarkable on this and other coasts, as well as any other observations, promotive of naval knowledge, and all such communications, together with the names of the persons making them, shall, when approved, be put on the records of the society, in a book to be provided for that purpose.

The selectmen in pursuance of a vote of the town on the 20th day of August, by deed, appropriated a lot of land near the south school-house, ninety-six feet long, by sixty feet wide, to the use of the United States, on which they are to erect a building, to be occupied as a gun-house, for the reception of the artillery ammunition and apparatus belonging to the United States, to be placed under the care of the artillery company or companies of this town.

On the 14th of September, the Rev. Nathan Parker was ordained over the south church and parish in this town. The Rev. Aaron Bancroft, of Worcester, preached on the occasion. The Rev. Joseph Willard, of Boxborough, gave the charge, and the Rev. Huntington Porter, of Rye, the right hand of fellowship.

1809.

The town confirmed their vote passed in March, 1807, respecting the land which had been occupied by the Rev. Doctor Haven, and authorized the selectmen to release to the south parish all the right of the town thereto.

George Gains, Esquire, was born in the year 1736, and served his apprenticeship with a cabinet-maker: he followed that business several years, but not finding it so profitable as he wished, he pursued the occupation of a house-carpenter; in which he was successful, and had a fair prospect of increasing his property. His zealous opposition to the stamp act in 1765, brought him into public notice, and his fellow townsmen rewarded his patriotism, by frequently choosing him a member of those committees which were the guardians of the liberties of their country. In the public rejoicings for the repeal of that act, he took a very conspicuous part, and the town was greatly obliged to him, for the brilliant display made on that joyful occasion. His attention was almost wholly engrossed by public business, to the exclusion of his private concerns. In 1773, he was chosen one of the selectmen of the town, and served in that office upwards of thirty years. After the commencement of hostilities by the British, he joined the American army with the rank of Major, and was present at the capture of General Burgoyne. He was elected a representative to the General Court for thirty successive years, with only one year's intermission. These repeated elections shew the confidence, his fellow citizens placed in him. He was commissioned as Commissary for the state, which office he held during his life; and in 1784, was appointed a Justice of the Peace. He died very suddenly on the 23d day of April, in the

seventy-third year of his age. He was seized with spasmodic affections in his lungs as he was sitting in his chair, and expired before any medical aid could be obtained.

The connexion between the society of Universalists and the Rev. George Richards, was dissolved by mutual consent, and on Wednesday, November 8th, the Rev. Hosea Ballou was installed as minister of that parish.

Mr. Charles Burroughs, of Boston, officiated through the spring and summer, as a reader in St. John's Church. In the autumn, he received and accepted an invitation to become the pastor of that church. On the 10th of December, he was admitted to the order of Deacons in St. Peter's Church, Philadelphia, by the Right Rev. William White, Bishop of Pennsylvania.

1810.

On the 11th of August, 1808, a company associated for establishing a livery stable. The property was divided into two hundred shares at twenty dollars each. The company was incorporated by act of the Legislature, passed the 19th day of June, the present year, for the term of ten years, by the name of the Portsmouth Livery Company. The proprietors then increased their stock to three hundred shares, at thirty dollars each.

The number of inhabitants at the present time, according to the enumeration, made in pursuance of the law of Congress, amounts to six thousand, nine hundred and thirty-four.

1811.

Tuesday, August 13th, about eight o'clock in the evening, the ship *Wonolanset*, owned by Captain Reuben Shapley, was discovered to be on fire. She had arrived from sea about an hour before, laden with hemp, cotton, molasses, naval stores and flour; and lay at Shapley's wharf. Alarm was given, and the inhabitants were collected; but a report being circulated, that she had a large quantity of powder on board, they immediately dispersed. A small number only could be persuaded to return and assist in rescuing the property from the flames; notwithstanding the assurances of the master, that she had no powder on board. An attempt was made to scuttle and sink her, but in vain. The fire spread rapidly through the ship, and to prevent it from communicating to the other shipping, and to the stores on the wharf, her fasts were cut, and she drifted on sunken rocks. Her masts were cut away to save the sails and rigging, but the hull and all the cargo were consumed. The fire was caused by striking a light in the steerage, near the bulkhead, against which a quantity of hemp was stowed. The loss was estimated at twelve thousand dollars.

1812.

April 27th. A number of the citizens offered the use of a fire engine to the town, which the proprietors agreed to keep in order, at their own expense, except that of a house to keep the same in ; to be under the direction of the fire-wards for the time being ; on condition that the proprietors be appointed an engine company, for said engine, with all the privileges and exemptions to which other engine men in the town are by law entitled ; to which the town agreed.

On Wednesday the 20th of May, the Rev. Charles Burroughs was admitted to the order of priests by the Right Rev. Alexander V. Griswold, Bishop of the eastern diocese. The Rev. Doctor Gardiner, of Boston, preached a very appropriate sermon on the solemn occasion, and delivered it in his best style of oratory. The next day the Rev. Mr. Burroughs was inducted Rector of St. John's Church agreeably to the Episcopal ritual ; on which occasion the Right Rev. Bishop preached. The whole services were solemn and impressive, and the Bishop discharged the duties of his office with dignity and grace.

The Rev. Joseph Buckminster, D. D. pastor of the north church, died at Readsborough, in Vermont, on the 10th day of June. His health was impaired, and his complaints were alarming to his family, who feared a mental derangement. He was subject to great depression of spirits, and at times his rational facul-

ties appeared disordered. It was thought best for him to take a journey into the country in hopes that it might divert his mind from those gloomy anxieties which appeared to distress him. Accordingly on the 2d of June, accompanied by his wife, and two particular friends, he left home and proceeded by easy stages to the Green Mountains, where he fell a victim to his disorders. He was interred at Bennington, and the Rev. Mr. Marsh of that place preached on the occasion to a numerous assembly, collected to pay the last tribute of respect to departed worth. His parish appointed the 19th of June, to commemorate his virtues and bewail their loss. The Rev. Mr. Parker of the south parish, delivered a suitable and affecting discourse to a crowded audience. The pulpit and front gallery were shrouded with black.

Doctor Buckminster was born at Rutland, in Massachusetts, the 14th of October, 1751. He was educated at Yale College, and was elected one of the tutors of that institution, in which office he officiated four years. Whilst an undergraduate, he formed the determination of entering into the ministry, and directed his studies principally to that object. After his ordination, "conscious of his awful charge," he devoted every faculty of his soul, to the discharge of the solemn duties, in which he was engaged. His sermons were serious and affectionate; and were delivered in an engaging manner. He suffered no opportunity, either public or private, to escape him,

without endeavouring to impress the sacred truths of the gospel, on the minds of his hearers. His character as a preacher, stood high among his acquaintance : as a scholar he was respected by all who had an opportunity of judging of his literary accomplishments. The College at New-Jersey conferred on him the degree of Doctor in Divinity. He was beloved by the people of his charge, and his catholic disposition procured him the esteem of christians of all denominations.

1813.

Wednesday the 22d of December, the town was again alarmed by the cry of fire, which was discovered soon after seven o'clock in the evening, in a barn belonging to the estate of the late Colonel Woodward, situated on Church-lane and Jaffrey-street. In a few minutes the barn was entirely inwrapt in flames, which were communicated to some of the neighbouring buildings, and spread with great rapidity. Whilst the inhabitants were endeavouring to arrest the progress of the flames, other buildings at a great distance were found to be on fire, communicated by flakes, wafted through the air. The attention of the people was divided by these new scenes of distress ; the fire was raging in different parts of the town, at the same time. It burned furiously upwards of six hours before it could be subdued, and in several directions it swept all before it, until it reached the

river. One hundred and eighty dwelling houses, and sixty-four other buildings, which occupied a space of fifteen acres, were destroyed. The Portsmouth Library, consisting of about one thousand volumes of well chosen books, which was kept in Broadstreet, was entirely consumed. The respectable inhabitants of Newburyport, Exeter, Dover, Durham, and Berwick, as well as those of the neighbouring towns, hastened to our assistance. The companies from Exeter and Dover brought their engines, which were very instrumental in saving the south part of the town. Commodore Hull, Captain Smith, Captain Creighton, Captain Renshaw, and other gentlemen of the navy, then in this port, with the crews under their command, rendered very essential service. In their conduct was fully exemplified the great advantage of discipline in time of danger. The officers with coolness and discretion sought the places where their exertions were most needed, and their men executed their orders with intrepidity. It is a subject of the warmest gratitude to the father of mercies, that at such an extensive conflagration, no lives were lost. One person had his leg broken by the falling of a wall. A gentleman from Newburyport in search of objects of distress, entered a house involved in flames, and at great hazard rescued a child crying for its mother, and brought it off in safety. Forty persons arrived from Salem, about three o'clock, having travelled forty-eight miles in six hours. They relieved the inhabitants, worn out

with fatigue, by watching the remainder of the night. Newburyport detached eighty or ninety men, who guarded the town the succeeding night. There is reason to believe that this destructive fire was the work of an incendiary. The town was at this time, infested with thieves, and property to a great amount, which was saved from the flames, was afterwards stolen. One gentleman who went to the assistance of his neighbours, took his pocket book with him, in which were two thousand dollars. His pocket was cut from his coat, and his pocket book with its contents lost. Several strangers offered their services, which were gratefully accepted; valuable property was committed to their care, but neither they nor the property was heard of afterwards. The amount of private property lost or destroyed by this fire, was estimated at between two hundred and fifty thousand and three hundred thousand dollars. The Selectmen, as they had on former similar occasions, appointed a committee to receive donations for the benefit of the sufferers. The sum of seventy-seven thousand, two hundred and seventy-three dollars was generously contributed, and the committee distributed that sum among the most indigent, in proportion to their losses and necessities.

The ship *Granville*, Captain Richard Shapleigh, master, from Cadiz, bound to this port, was cast away on a ledge of rocks extending a short distance off Rye Beach, at four o'clock on Wednesday morning, the 14th of April. It blew a severe gale,

attended with a very heavy sea. The ship immediately bilged, and soon after went to pieces. Captain Shapleigh was swept from the deck, while endeavouring to cut away the mizen mast, and was drowned. The people of Rye soon discovered the wreck, and went in whale boats to deliver the remainder of the crew from the imminent danger to which they were exposed, and which they effected about seven o'clock at the great hazard of their own lives. The *Granville* was laden with salt, four hundred boxes of raisins, and a quantity of lemons. The cargo was totally lost.

August 23d. This day is assigned for performing the funeral obsequies of the brave and much lamented Captain Lawrence, and Lieutenant Ludlow, who gloriously fell in supporting the cause of their country on board the frigate *Chesapeake*. The town directed that the bells of the several houses of public worship be tolled from one to three o'clock this afternoon.

1814.

January 12. Wednesday evening, soon after seven o'clock, the rope-walk belonging to Mr. Joseph Akerman, 3d, situated on the south road, was set on fire by some incendiary, and entirely consumed, with its contents, consisting of about five tons of tarred yarns, which had been saved from the last fire, by being thrown into the dock, and had been

stretched in this walk to dry ; of three tons of hemp and yarns, one complete suit of sails for a ship, a small quantity of cordage and sails, which had been stored here, as a safe place of deposit. The fire was communicated to the yarns at the lower end of the walk, and spread through it with great velocity, so that the whole was in flames in ten minutes. By great exertions the buildings near the head of the rope-walk were prevented from taking fire. The loss is estimated at three thousand dollars. A prophecy had been circulated the week past, that there would be a fire at the south part of the town, at half past seven o'clock on Wednesday evening. Little attention was paid to it by the reflecting part of the community, who supposed it to proceed from the dreams of some fanatic ; but when the event so exactly corresponded with the prophecy, it was strongly suspected that a close connexion subsisted between the prophet and the incendiary. The selectmen offered a reward of five hundred dollars, for the discovery and conviction of the person who perpetrated the atrocious offence.

April 19th. The town voted to make application to the Legislature, for an act to prohibit the erection of any wooden building more than twelve feet high, excepting in such places as in the opinion of the selectmen, a foundation cannot be laid without great difficulty or inconvenience, to the eastward of a line from north mill-bridge to Massey-street, thence through said street, and Akerman-street to the cen-

tre of middle road, and thence straight to the south mill-bridge. The Legislature passed the act, in compliance with the above application, at their session in June.

When a person distinguished for his virtues or his talents, has been summoned to pay the last debt of nature, society has cause to mourn. If his talents have been uniformly employed to promote the public good, his loss will be more severely felt. It is not necessary that his life should be dignified with titles, or burthened with public honours, to bring his virtues into view. Superior worth has often been found in the private walks of life; and has been induced to quit retreat, only for the sake of being more eminently useful. This is remarkably verified in the character of John Peirce, Esquire. He was the eldest son of the honourable Daniel Peirce, and was born in the year 1746. He received his education at the grammar-school, under the instruction of Major Hale, where many of our fellow citizens were qualified to fill important offices. After laying a foundation of useful learning in the various branches, which were necessary for him in mercantile life, he entered the counting room of the honourable Daniel Rindge, and with that accomplished merchant, acquired a thorough knowledge of book-keeping and mercantile transactions. At twenty-one years of age, he took charge of the business and extensive property of his uncle, the late honourable Mark Hunking Wentworth, which he

continued to manage until Mr. Wentworth's decease, who appointed him executor of his will. The settlement of that estate, the care of property entrusted to him by persons residing in England, and the management of the affairs relating to Mason's patent, of which he was one of the proprietors, required his constant attention.

He was opposed to the revolution, at its commencement, but was always open, honourable, and correct in his conduct; and those of opposite sentiments, respected him as a man of principle and integrity.

After the peace in 1783, when the controversy between the claimants under Mason and Allen, and the dispute with the state, was in agitation, he was selected by the Masonian proprietors, as the agent on their behalf to take care of their interests, and settle the dispute on the best possible terms. By his intelligence, perseverance, and judgment, a settlement of this intricate and long contested business was effected. In the management of it, he gained the confidence of all concerned, by his open and upright conduct; and it was adjusted to their mutual satisfaction.

He was elected in 1791, one of the representatives of the town to the General Court, and for several succeeding years; and was an active, intelligent and influential member.

He was the principal agent in erecting the bridge over Piscataqua river in 1794; and, so very me-

thodical was he in that great undertaking, that he was able to give a detailed account of the several parts, as well as the aggregate cost of the whole.

He was likewise one of the directors who laid out, and had the superintendence of making the turnpike road from Piscataqua bridge to Concord.

At the adoption of the constitution for the general government, he was a decided federalist, and was firmly attached to those principles during life. In 1793, when President Adams thought fit to remove several officers of government because their political sentiments did not coincide with his own, and appoint others in their stead, he appointed Mr. Peirce, Loan Officer for New-Hampshire. This appointment was entirely unexpected, and undesired by him; and he was particularly solicited by the Secretary of State, to accept it. He faithfully discharged the duties of the office, until Mr. Jefferson, reinstated those gentlemen who had been removed by his predecessor.

In 1791, he took charge of an insurance office, in addition to his other business. His knowledge of mercantile affairs, qualified him to manage the concerns of it, with propriety and judgment.

The great fire which destroyed a large portion of the town, in 1802, commenced in the building where he kept his office, and nearly all of his valuable papers were consumed. This was an irreparable loss; and a source of great perplexity and trouble.

His benevolence was extensive; his liberal hand was open to relieve distress, occasioned by misfortune, especially among those, who had enjoyed happier days. It was not a sudden impulse, which prompted him to these charitable deeds, but principle formed with deliberation, as some can testify, who received their "daily bread" from his bounty for a course of years.

He was decisive in his opinions, and seldom relinquished them. They were not formed in haste or guided by passion, but were the result of mature reflection, and sound judgment.—On the 21st of February this year, he suffered an attack of paralysis, which terminated his useful and valuable life, the 14th of the following June.

Tuesday, June 21st, between the hours of ten and eleven o'clock in the evening, the town was alarmed by a report that the British were landing at Rye Beach. Alarm bells were rung, and signal guns fired. All the military companies in town turned out with alacrity, and prepared for the attack. A martial spirit pervaded all ranks, and they glowed with ardour, to be led to the place of danger. Expresses were dispatched to ascertain the situation of the enemy, and the report proved to be without foundation. It was occasioned by some boats of a suspicious character that were observed off Rye harbour, by the guard stationed there. The inhabitants again retired, to enjoy the sweets of repose.

Monday, November 28th. About twenty minutes after seven o'clock, there was a severe shock of an earthquake, which continued half a minute: it was preceded by a heavy rumbling noise, the convulsion of the earth was violent, several houses were shaken, and persons standing on the ground, perceived the agitation. The noise and trembling went off gradually, apparently in a south easterly direction. The evening was very clear; the moon shone bright, and the mercury stood at freezing point, in Farenheit's thermometer. This earthquake was felt through Massachusetts, New-Hampshire, and Maine.

1815.

Wednesday the 15th day of March, the Rev. Israel W. Putnam was ordained to the pastoral charge of the north church and congregation in this town. The exercises on this occasion were peculiarly solemn, interesting, and satisfactory. The Rev. Doctor Worcester, of Salem, made the introductory prayer. The Rev. Professor Porter, of the Theological Institution in Andover, preached the sermon; the consecrating prayer was made by the Rev. Doctor Spring, of Newburyport; the charge was given by the Rev. Mr. Wadsworth, of Danvers, and the fellowship of the churches by the Rev. Mr. Parker, of this town, and the Rev. Doctor Dana, of Newburyport, made the concluding prayer.

June. The Legislature of this state at their last session, passed an act for the security of the town of Portsmouth, at the unanimous request of the inhabitants in town-meeting assembled, by prohibiting the erection of wooden buildings of more than twelve feet high. At the last annual town-meeting a vote passed to instruct the representatives of this town, to use their exertions to effect its repeal. A remonstrance signed by many of the respectable inhabitants against its repeal, and a counter remonstrance were presented to the Legislature; and after a full hearing on the subject, it was determined, by a very great majority, not to repeal the law.

The connexion between the society of Universalists and the Rev. Hosca Ballou, was dissolved, and they elected the Rev. Sebastian Streeter their pastor.

1816.

A branch of the bank of the United States, was established in this town. Books for subscription were opened on the 1st of July, under the direction of three commissioners, appointed by the President of the United States.

The management of their business at their office of discount and deposit in this town, is committed to a President, nine Directors, and a Cashier; who are appointed annually by the directors of the parent bank of Philadelphia. The amount of their stock

is two hundred thousand dollars. The days of discount are Tuesdays and Fridays. Notes are discounted for four months, or any shorter time.

1817.

January 9th. Thursday evening, about nine o'clock, a fire broke out in the barn and out houses of George Jaffrey, Esquire, in Daniel-street. The weather, being mild, with little wind, the flames were confined to the buildings in which they originated. Mr. Jaffrey's dwelling house, which was but a few feet from his barn, was saved by uncommon exertions.

An attempt was made to burn the town on the night following Saturday, the 15th of March. The incendiary placed a quantity of shingles against a cooper's shop in a very retired place, back of St. John's Church, and set them on fire, which had made some progress before it was discovered. There were several wooden buildings contiguous to the shop, which must inevitably have been destroyed, if the flames had not been arrested. The fire was providentially discovered in season to prevent the fatal catastrophe.

The discovery of this fire has been attributed to the sagacity of a little dog, owned by one of the neighbours, who kept the family awake by his incessant barking; and when one of them arose to quiet him, he led the person immediately to the fire.

The selectmen offered a reward of one hundred dollars for the detection of the incendiary, so that he might be legally convicted.

Doctor William Cutter departed this life the 22d of May, in the forty-eighth year of his age. He was the son of the venerable Doctor Ammi R. Cutter. After having laid the foundation of his education in the grammar-school in this town, he studied the theory of physic and surgery, under the direction of his father. Towards the close of his studies he had the advantage of visiting his father's patients with him, and obtaining an insight into his practice. Doctor Hall Jackson was at this time in full practice, and was the principal surgeon in this part of the country. Being infirm, he frequently took young Mr. Cutter with him as a companion and assistant. This likewise gave him an opportunity of acquainting himself with extensive practice in the various branches of medicine and surgery, and he profited greatly by the experience and skill of these eminent physicians. Under such favourable auspices he commenced business, and by his diligent attention to the duties of his profession, and careful observations of the cases, which he had an opportunity to examine, he soon became respectable in his profession, and obtained the confidence of his employers. His practice was extensive, and his advice and assistance were requested in critical cases, not only in the circuit of his daily practice, but often at a distance where his usual visits could not

extend. He was benevolent in his disposition, and the poor, from whom he expected no recompence, reaped equal benefit from his skill and assistance, with those from whom he expected the most ample remuneration. He never attempted to screen himself from danger, when duty called. During the prevalence of the yellow fever in this town, in 1798, he visited his patients, labouring under that complaint, with unremitted attention; and towards the close of the season, he was attacked with the disorder, from which he recovered to the inexpressible satisfaction of his numerous acquaintance. He was social in his disposition, mild and placid in his manners, and society mourns the loss of one of its most useful members.

Since the Portsmouth Library was burnt in 1813, there has been no institution of the kind in this town. A number of gentlemen last winter, sensible of the great advantages that might be derived from having a public library, established under proper regulations, associated for the purpose of commencing one. They procured a convenient room, which was to be open from eight o'clock in the morning, until nine o'clock in the evening, in which they collected a few books, and periodical publications for the accommodation of the subscribers, and such strangers as they might think proper to introduce. Several persons, to encourage the undertaking, deposited their books there for the benefit of the subscribers. At the session of the Legislature in June,

they obtained an act of incorporation, making them a body corporate and politic, by the name of the proprietors of the Portsmouth Athenæum. The affairs of the society are managed by a President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and three Directors. The property is divided into thirty shares. Each proprietor paid fifty dollars, which were appropriated to the purchase of books; each share was liable to an annual tax of three dollars, and no share could be transferred without being first offered to the society at fifty per cent. discount. There was another class of subscribers, who paid eight dollars per year, for the use of the books, and the privilege of the reading room, but who had no transferable property in the library. Others were admitted to the reading room upon the payment of five dollars a year. Thus a foundation was laid for a public library. Though small in its beginning, the proprietors flatter themselves, that it will rapidly increase, and become not only a benefit to society, but an ornament to the town.

1818.

April. The town voted to establish a school for boys, and another for girls on the Lancasterian plan; and chose a committee of ten persons, to adopt and carry into effect such measures as they may deem necessary and expedient for the establishment of

the same, and appropriated one thousand dollars for this purpose.

Donald Mc'Intosh, Esquire, the British Consul for this State and Maine, arrived in this town in September, and fixed his residence here.

Wednesday, September 30th. The Washington Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, was constituted in this town, and its officers installed. The ceremonies were performed at the meeting-house of the Universalists; and an address was delivered on the occasion by the Rev. Mr. Fillmore.

Friday, October 16th. The barn of William Sheafe, Esquire, accidentally took fire between one and two o'clock, and was entirely consumed. The Baptist meeting-house and two other buildings, which stood near it, were saved by the prompt exertions of the inhabitants.

1819.

The honourable John Langdon was a native of Portsmouth. His father was a respectable farmer, and lived about three miles from the compact part of the town. He received his education at the public grammar-school, under the tuition of Major Hale. From school he went into the counting house of the honourable Daniel Rindge, where he became well acquainted with mercantile transactions. At the close of his apprenticeship, he entered upon a seafaring life, which business he continued to follow, until the

troubles between this country and Great Britain, interrupted the commercial intercourse between them. He took an early and active part in the opposition to the British government, and was one of the leaders of that party, which removed the powder and military stores from the fort at New-Castle in December, 1774. In the spring of the year 1775, he was elected a delegate to Congress, and attended the session which commenced in May, at Philadelphia. Soon after the beginning of the revolutionary war, he had the command of an independent company of cadets, and at the time of the surrender of the British army under General Burgoyne, went to Bennington as a volunteer. He was likewise at Rhode-Island with a detachment of his company, at the time the British troops were in possession of the island, and when General Sullivan brought off the American troops. His zeal in his country's cause, led him to every necessary exertion; and in various walks of life, he was most eminently useful.—He had the agency under Congress, of building several public ships of war: he frequently represented this town in the General Court, and when a member of the House of Representatives, was generally chosen their Speaker. In 1785, he was elected President of the state, and in 1787, was one of the convention, which formed the Constitution for the General Government. In 1788, he was again elected President of the state, and the same year was chosen by the

Legislature one of the senators of the United States. The General Government went into operation, and the first Congress under it met at New-York, the fourth of March, 1789. Mr. Langdon was elected President of the Senate, *pro hac vice*. His term as settled by lot, was for six years, and during this period the funding system was adopted. When the question was first agitated, Mr. Langdon was in favour of it, but changed his opinion, and finally voted against it. Before his term as a senator had expired, he was re-elected for another term of six years; and within that time the commercial treaty between this country and Great Britain, was submitted to the Senate. Mr. Langdon voted against it. After the expiration of his second term as senator, he was chosen one of the representatives of this town to the General Court, for four years successively. In 1805, he was elected Governor of the state; which office he held six years, not immediately in succession, but with the exception of one year's intermission. In 1805, the Government of Dartmouth College, conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Laws.

Governor Langdon was easy, polite, and pleasing in his manners, and social in his habits; remarkably well calculated to gain the public esteem, which he was generally fortunate enough to retain. He was liberal, although not lavish of his money. He retired from public business in 1811, and passed the evening of his days in a calm retreat from the bus-

tle of politics and contending parties, and in the pleasing enjoyment of his family and friends.

He became a professor of religion after he had passed the meridian of life; was zealously attached to the church of which he was a member, and cultivated an acquaintance with good and pious men of all denominations.

A few years previous to his decease, he was troubled with paralytic affections, and gradually declined until the 18th of September, when he died. At his funeral, military honours were performed by the battalion of the United States troops under Colonel Walbach; minute guns were fired during the procession, the forts, navy-yard, and shipping displayed their colours at half-mast, and every mark of respect was paid, that was due to so distinguished a citizen.

1820.

The number of inhabitants according to the census, amounts to seven thousand, three hundred and twenty-seven.

The Mechanic Association established a fund, by a voluntary subscription among the members, of fifty cents each, called the funeral fund; and in case of the death of any subscriber to the fund, the survivors are to be assessed twenty-five cents each, for the purpose of replenishing said fund. The monies thus collected, are to be kept separate from the

general funds of the society, and are appropriated to the relief of the family of any deceased subscriber. A committee consisting of two persons chosen annually, with the President of the association, styled a Committee of Condolence, is to wait upon the widow or children of such deceased member, or make a communication to her, or them in writing, and present her, or them with twenty dollars from said funeral fund, and to tender the services of the members of the association, in the settlement of such deceased brother's estate.

Those persons, who have devoted themselves to promote the ease, comfort, and happiness of their fellow men, who have diligently exerted their talents for the public good, through a long and active life, deserve the approbation of their cotemporaries, and to have their names respectfully handed down to posterity. The physician, whose business makes him conversant with the miseries of life, and whose constant study is to relieve the distresses, and meliorate the condition of mankind; has the greatest opportunity of experiencing the noblest sympathies of the human breast. No man better deserves the meed of praise, for the exercise of these benevolent feelings, through a long, diligent, and skilful course of practice, than the late venerable and respected Doctor Ammi Ruhamah Cutter.—All who have received his unremitted attentions in the hour of affliction, will remember with gratitude his many acts of kindness and affection.

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Doctor Cutter was born at North Yarmouth, in Maine, in 1735. He was the eldest son of the Rev. Mr. Cutter, the first minister of that place; and was educated at Harvard College, where he was graduated in 1752, at the early age of seventeen. Having determined to pursue the practice of physic, he was placed under the tuition of Doctor Clement Jackson, an eminent physician in this town. Soon after completing his studies, he was appointed surgeon of a regiment raised in this province to oppose the French and Indians, who were making terrible inroads on the English settlements. He continued with his regiment on the frontiers a long time, and until they were ordered to Cape Breton. He embarked with them for that place, and was at the capture of Louisburgh, in 1758. After the reduction of that important fortress, he returned to this town, and commenced business in his profession; his urbanity of manner, and assiduous attention, procured him extensive practice. Doctor Cutter was requested to accept the office of Counsellor under the royal government, but declined, because he thought the official duties would be incompatible with his professional engagements. Although he was in habits of intimacy and friendship with the principal officers of distinction before the revolution, and had many inducements to unite with them in politics, yet from principle, he embraced the cause of his country, and firmly opposed the oppressive acts of the British ministry. In 1777, he was

solicited to take charge of the medical department in the northern army, and notwithstanding the inconvenience to which it subjected him, he accepted the appointment, and remained with the army, until the surrender of General Burgoyne. He then returned home and resumed his practice, which he continued, until prevented by the infirmities of age. Few physicians have had such extensive practice, for such a length of time as Doctor Cutter. For nearly sixty years, his labours were incessant; and the confidence placed in him by the community was unbounded.

The town elected him one of the delegates to the convention that formed the constitution of this state. This is the only instance of his leaving his professional duties, to discharge those of political life. He was several years President of the New-Hampshire Medical Society. But his reputation was not confined to New-Hampshire. The Massachusetts Medical Society, and the Massachusetts Humane Society, each elected him an honorary member of their respective societies. "Doctor Cutter was a christian; his piety was sincere and rational; the last act of his life, was a prayer, which he uttered the moment previous to his dissolution; and that prayer which bore his soul to heaven, evinced his resignation, his pious confidence, and his belief in the merits of his Redeemer." He died on Friday, the 8th day of December, aged eighty-six.

1821.

Monday, May 21st. The dwelling house of Thomas J. Whidden, situated on the road to Little-Harbour, took fire between one and two o'clock, P. M. and was entirely consumed. The fire was caused by a spark from the chimney, which fell and rested on the roof. Mr. Whidden was at some distance from home at work, and only a woman and some small children were in the house. The fire had made so great progress before it was discovered, that it could not be extinguished. Most of the furniture was saved.

On Tuesday morning, May 22d, the dwelling house of Jeremiah Hart, situated on the corner of middle road and Akerman-street, was consumed. The fire broke out about two o'clock, and had made such advances before it was discovered, there was no possibility of saving much of the furniture. It took fire in the cellar, some suppose, from the ashes which were deposited there. By great exertions of the citizens, the neighbouring buildings, some of which stood but a few feet distant, were preserved.

On Wednesday evening, the 20th of June, the town was visited with a severe thunder storm, attended with heavy rain. The lightning struck the house of Robert Rice, Esquire, on Islington road. The spouts round the eaves of the house were filled with water, and overflowed in front of the house. The electric fluid appears to have been conducted

by the rain to the current of water in the spouts, and in its descent, was attracted by the iron weights to the windows. It shattered the blinds, broke some of the glass, tore away a shutter, and forced it a considerable distance into the room. It then descended to the lower story, broke down some of the plaister of the wall, and was conducted along the bell-wire, which it melted, to the bell handle on the outside of the door, and passed off by the iron railing to the ground.

1822.

January 8th. A bridge connecting this town with New-Castle, was completed and opened for passengers. It is in three parts; the first extends from the south end to Shapley's Island, and is 849 feet in length. The second extends from Shapley's Island to Amazeen's Island, 713 feet, and the third extends from Amazeen's Island to Great-Island, 809 feet; making the whole bridge 2371 feet in length. The bridge is built on piles, excepting long abutments at each shore. The greatest depth of the channels where the bridge crosses them, is not more than thirty-five feet at low water. The whole cost was about eight thousand dollars. The distance from the Court-house in this town, to Fort Constitution over this bridge, is two miles and three quarters.

The proprietors were incorporated by an act of the Legislature, passed the 19th of June, 1821.

The Rev. Joseph Walton departed this life on the 10th of January, having attained the age of eighty years. He was a native of New-Castle, descended from some of its earliest and most respectable inhabitants; one of his ancestors, was a long time President of the Provincial Council. Mr. Walton was bred a cooper, and worked at the trade a number of years. Being of a serious disposition, he early became a professor of religion, and joined the church, under the pastoral care of the Rev. Doctor Langdon. In this connexion, he continued three years, and then became a member of the Independent Congregational Church, of which the Rev. Mr. Drown was pastor. That society had no regular settled minister after the death of Mr. Drown, but had depended almost entirely upon occasional supplies of their desk. In 1777, they elected Mr. Walton one of their ruling elders, and when they were destitute of preaching, he took the lead in their devotions; and read and expounded the scriptures to them publickly on the sabbath. His services were very acceptable to the people, and they settled him as their minister in 1789. From that time he statedly preached, and “administered to his people in sacred things” until a short time before his death. He was greatly beloved by them, and highly respected by the ministers, and christians of the other denominations in town. He was very exemplary in

his life and conversation. His integrity was unimpeachable; his moral virtues were of the highest class, for his principles were founded on the word of truth. He possessed a strong discriminating mind, but unimproved by education; he was notwithstanding a pious and useful minister of the gospel, and discharged his parochial duties with uncommon diligence and faithfulness. He had from his youth been in the practice of reading serious and instructive books at his leisure hours. The scriptures were his peculiar delight; he studied them constantly and with attention, accompanied by prayer for the divine blessing on his endeavours to understand them. In his search after truth he was patient and persevering, and his investigations were accurate. By these means he qualified himself for the gospel ministry.

On Friday, the 12th of July, there was a violent thunder storm, accompanied by torrents of rain. A sudden flash of lightning appeared to fill the atmosphere with its brightness, and at the same moment a tremendous crash of thunder, burst over the town. The electric fluid struck at six different places. In State-street, the chimney of Mr. Jones' house above the roof was demolished, and the bricks were scattered in all directions. The lightning descended without doing other injury until it reached the lower floor, when it burst from the chimney, scattering fragments of wood and lathing with such violence as to break the pannels of the doors, which

they happened to strike. Mrs. Jones was in the room, but almost miraculously escaped without any material injury. Mr. Loughton, standing by a window in his store on the opposite side of the street, was struck to the ground and much hurt. The shock was felt in all directions for a considerable distance. The school-house, about ten rods distant was struck at the same explosion, a part of the chimney was torn down, and a piece of the belfrey carried across the street. Although full of scholars at the time, not one was injured. At the same moment a shop of Mr. Badger's, across the river about a mile distant, was struck, and about one third of it shattered to pieces. A building situated in the tan-yard of Mr. Jackson, at the north part of the town, was also struck and considerably injured. At the south meeting-house, the lightning descended the rod, and bending it, loosened the clamps in its progress. About a foot from the ground, a portion of the fluid appears to have been attracted from the rod by the hinges and hooks of the outer door. The building was injured on the inside, some of the inner doors were broken to pieces, the cornice under the gallery was forced off, and pieces of it were thrown several feet, and the windows, through which the funnel of the stoves passed, were broken. This building has been struck by lightning three or four times. Doctor Franklin observed not long after it was erected, that it was peculiarly exposed to lightning, being situated on a rising ground between two

bodies of water, which would attract and divide the clouds, or suspend them over the building. It has been supposed that the rod affixed to this building, does not penetrate a sufficient depth into the earth, and that the injuries have sometimes proceeded from the electric fluid being conveyed by the water on the surface of the building. Seven successive shocks followed each other within a few minutes, all of which appeared to have exploded in the immediate vicinity of this town.

September 8th. Sunday afternoon, about four o'clock, just before the close of the evening service, the house of Mr. Samuel Gerrish, in High-street, took fire. Mrs. Gerrish was in the chamber with her children; she perceived the smoke, and heard the crackling of the fire, and going below, found a shed which was attached to the back of the house all in flames. The fire was discovered about the same time by the neighbours, but had made too great progress to be extinguished. The house was entirely consumed, and also most of the furniture which was in it. Mr. Simeon Stiles' house, which stood about four feet from the shed, was saved by uncommon exertion. During the fire, many persons stood idle spectators of the scene. The firewards should compel every person present to assist in extinguishing fires, or removing the property exposed. These officers are necessarily vested with great power on such occasions, and they should be men in whom the greatest confidence can be placed. They

ought to be chosen by ballot, and when a good man is once introduced into office, he should be long continued, that the public may have the benefit of his experience; and but few of the board should be changed at a time.

September 10th. The Portsmouth bridge, connecting this town with Kittery, is so far completed, that the proprietors have opened it for passengers, and the ferry is discontinued. This bridge is in two parts; the first extending from Rindge's wharf, at the north end, to Ham's Island, with a draw for vessels to pass through to the wharves above it. The other part extends from the easterly end of Ham's Island, to Kittery shore. It is built on piles, which being strongly framed together, are driven into the bottom of the river, and strings are laid from one set of piles to the next, on which the flooring of the bridge rests. Towards the westerly end of the bridge is an arch or space fifty feet wide, fifteen feet above high water, for gondolas, boats, and small craft to pass under the same, agreeable to a plan approved by the Justices of the Superior Court. Towards the easterly end of the bridge, is a draw or hoist for vessels to pass through in going up or down the river. The whole bridge is sixteen hundred feet long. The river at the deepest places is from forty-seven to fifty-three feet deep at low water. The whole has been completed in five months, and cost thirty thousand dollars. The proprietors are to pay Alexander Rice, Esq.

out of the income of the bridge, four thousand dollars for his loss of the ferry. The proprietors were incorporated by an act of the Legislature of New-Hampshire, passed June 28th, 1819, and confirmed by act of the Legislature of Massachusetts, passed February 25, 1820.

Great advantage is anticipated from this bridge, as most of the travel from the eastward will pass through this town, which has heretofore passed round the heads of the river, or over Piscataqua bridge; besides the convenience it will afford the county of York in bringing their produce to market.

1823.

The society of Associated Mechanics and Manufacturers in New-Hampshire, at a meeting held the 5th of November, 1822, resolved to establish a library exclusively for the benefit of apprentices, and appointed a committee to solicit subscriptions and donations to it, and to establish rules and regulations of the library. At a meeting held the 4th of February the present year, the committee reported, that they had obtained and secured the sum of four hundred twenty-five dollars, which was to be appropriated to the purchase of books; in addition to which they had received two hundred forty-eight volumes; and at the same meeting they adopted rules and regulations of the library, the purport of which is, that the library shall be under the su-

perintendance and patronage of the society, who shall choose five directors; the President, Vice President, and Secretary of the society shall be three of them, the other two shall be chosen from the society at large. The directors shall appoint a librarian, who shall have the use of the library for his services. The library to be open every Wednesday from six to nine o'clock, P. M. and books may be kept out a fortnight. Every apprentice applying for books, shall produce a certificate from his master, that he is deserving the privilege of the library, and that he will hold himself responsible for the return of the books.

This year completes the second century since the commencement of the settlements on Piscataqua river. The precise time of the year when this event took place, cannot now be ascertained. The landing at Plymouth, and the first settlement in Massachusetts are known with accuracy, but in what vessel Thompson, the Hiltons, and their companions came over, and where they landed, no record has been made. It was probably in May, or June; Winslow says it was "in the spring." The Plymouth colony sent Captain Standish to Piscataqua, to purchase provisions, and Thompson accompanied him to Plymouth on his return in July. Their descendants and other inhabitants, desirous of celebrating the second centennial anniversary of the settlement of this place, fixed upon the 21st of May, for that purpose. All necessary preparations being made, a

procession was formed at the south meeting-house, and moved in the following order :

Military Escort,
consisting of two companies of Infantry;
Masters of the several schools with their scholars;
Mechanic Association;
Free Masons, in the habiliments of their order;
Committee of Arrangements;
Orator, Officiating Clergyman, and Poet;
Clergy;
Civil and Military Officers;
Citizens.

The procession was very extensive, and moved through several of the principal streets in town, to the north meeting-house, which was entirely filled. A very appropriate prayer was made by the Rev. Bennet Tyler, D. D. the President of Dartmouth College. An ingenious oration was delivered by Nathaniel A. Haven, jr. Esquire, in which he gave a sketch of the characters of the merchant adventurers, who first promoted the settlement here, delineated some of the principal traits which distinguished them, and pointed out a few, who had risen to eminence in the learned professions. A poem was delivered by Oliver William B. Peabody, Esquire, of Exeter, which discovered his knowledge of the history of the country ; it was elegant and classical. Some odes, prepared for the occasion, by the Rev. Thomas C. Upham, of Rochester, were sung in the best style by the Portsmouth Handel Society.

About two hundred gentlemen dined at Jefferson hall, among whom were several strangers of distinction, and closed the day with hilarity and sentiments of universal benevolence. The day was remarkably fine, and every thing was conducted with the greatest regularity and decorum.

In the evening a splendid ball was given at Franklin hall. The sides of the room were entirely covered with portraits of eminent persons, who flourished here before the revolution. It is supposed that nearly four hundred ladies and gentlemen graced the hall on this occasion.

Captain John Mason, the original proprietor of the province, gave the name of Portsmouth to this place from Portsmouth in England, of which town he was Governor. It was originally much more extensive than it is at present. Part of Hampton, Stratham, Greenland, Newington, Rye, and the whole of New-Castle, were included within its ancient boundaries. It is now about five miles and three quarters in length, and three miles and a half in breadth. The compact part is chiefly built on a peninsula on the south side of the Piscataqua, formed by the north and south mill ponds, and connected with the main land by a narrow isthmus on the north west, and by bridges at the outlets of the two mill ponds. The buildings have of late years been extended beyond the peninsula, and the compact part of the town has increased. The surface is uneven, but the hills are not high. The most elevated

land is on the south road ; on the highest part of which, there formerly grew seven lofty pines, which were noted land marks for seamen, and the hill took the name of “ The seven pines,” which it retained until they were all cut down. The south meeting house stands on elevated ground, and the steeple is likewise a land mark for vessels entering the harbour.

Piscataqua River forms the only seaport in New-Hampshire. The harbour is safe and commodious, sheltered from every storm ; the water is sufficiently deep for the largest ships, and the anchorage good. The tide usually rises about eight feet. The current in the river, especially at the Narrows, is rapid ; in the strength of the tide it runs six miles an hour, and in consequence of its rapidity, the channel is never frozen as far up as Dover point, where the several branches of the river meet. From the position of the islands and high lands about the harbour, it can be defended against any force. With these advantages it may be considered one of the best harbours on the continent. Government has established a Navy Yard here, on an island purchased for the purpose ; on which are erected buildings for the accommodation of the officers and men ; two ship houses sufficiently extensive to cover the largest ships employed in the Navy, and a Dock Yard for the preservation of timber. This island contains upwards of fifty-eight acres, and cost five thousand five hundred dollars. Besides the carpenters, smiths and labourers employed in the yard, a

company of marines is stationed here as a guard. A distinguished officer of the Navy has usually had the command at this station. Commodore Isaac Hull was appointed to superintend the business at this establishment in the year 1813; under his direction the ship *Washington* was built. Commodore Thomas Macdonough succeeded to the command in the year 1814, and Commodore Charles Morris in the year 1817. When Captain Morris was appointed one of the Commissioners of the Navy in 1823, Captain William M. Crane succeeded him, and is the present commander at the Navy Yard. A large ship, rated as a seventy-four, and a frigate, are now in considerable forwardness, and can be launched in a short time, when occasion shall require.

Portsmouth is situated in $43^{\circ} 5'$ N. latitude, and $70^{\circ} 41'$ west longitude from Greenwich, or $6^{\circ} 23'$ E. from Washington. From the dome of the Episcopal Church, from the top of the ship-houses at the Navy Yard, and from the highlands in Kittery, are presented very handsome views of the town. The streets are generally very narrow and irregular. They seem to have been laid out by the owners of the land for their own accommodation, without any regard to public convenience or ornament. There are thirty-seven streets and fifty-three lanes. Before the commencement of the present century there were but four brick dwelling-houses; the rest were of wood and contiguous to each other. But few were so isolated, as not to be in danger from their

neighbours' fire. After a great part of the town had been destroyed, an act of the Legislature was passed, authorizing the Selectmen to widen the streets, and prohibiting the future erection of wooden buildings of more than twelve feet in height ; but this useful regulation has not been strictly attended to ; most of the buildings however lately erected, have been built of brick, and in a superior stile of architecture to those which were burnt.

Portsmouth has gradually increased in numbers and wealth, but not in the same proportion, as many other sea-ports in the United States. In the year 1794, the customs collected in this port amounted to \$46,991 ; in 1799, they amounted to \$89,384 ; and in 1824, to \$104,135. But the amount of the duties collected at the Custom-house is not an accurate criterion by which we may judge of the commerce of the town. " More than three fifths of the registered tonnage of this port is employed in the carrying trade. Freights are procured from the Southern ports for Europe, and on their return the vessels bring salt, iron, coals, and other heavy and bulky articles, which are sold here as cheap as in any part of the United States."

In 1800, the commerce of Portsmouth employed twenty-eight ships, forty-seven brigs, ten schooners, two sloops, and one bark, besides twenty coasting vessels and a still greater number occupied in fishing. In 1824 there were belonging to this port thirty-eight ships, twenty-six brigs, one hundred

and five schooners, one bark and twelve sloops, of which eighty-one were employed in foreign trade, thirty-three in coasting, and sixty-eight in fishing ; making in the whole 23,284 tons. One thousand four hundred and fifty-three seamen, including men and boys, were usually employed, of whom five hundred eighty-one were engaged in the fishery. The whole amount of exports to foreign ports, was \$199,820, and of imports \$221,982, and the difference was made up by the freights, earned by vessels employed in the carrying trade. The quantity of cod and pollock fish taken and cured, was 46,309 quintals ; fish-oil, 1216 barrels ; mackarel, exclusive of what was sold fresh in the market and for home consumption, 5575 barrels. There were exported to foreign ports 1147 barrels of pickled fish, and 8612 quintals of dried fish ; the remainder was used for home consumption, or carried coastwise to other places for exportation.

The trade of Portsmouth suffered some inconvenience from the want of direct communication with the interior part of the country. This inconvenience is in some measure remedied by the New-Hampshire Turnpike road, and the bridges across the Piscataqua.

The air of Portsmouth is salubrious ; the inhabitants are generally healthy, and it is not uncommon to find persons between eighty and ninety years of age ; there is one woman living upwards of one hundred and four years of age, in the full enjoyment of her mental faculties, and who was able to walk

the last summer between eight and ten miles in a day.

There are eight societies for religious worship in Portsmouth ; one Episcopal, two Congregational, one Independent, one Baptist, one Methodist, one Universalist, one Sandemanian. Great attention is paid to the education of children. Seven public schools and several private ones, are maintained for their instruction, besides district schools kept by women. The town pays annually nearly five thousand dollars to the instructors.

There are seven houses for public worship ; one Academy ; five school houses in the compact part of the town, and two in the outskirts ; a court house, gaol, three markets, and the building belonging to the Athenæum. This institution is very flourishing. The proprietors purchased the building belonging to the New-Hampshire Fire and Marine Insurance Company, situated on the Parade, and have appropriated the lower story for a reading room, which is furnished with the best newspapers published in the principal cities of the United States. In the second story is the library, containing nearly two thousand volumes, to which additions are annually made. In the upper story is a large collection of natural and artificial curiosities, minerals, coins, &c. The institution is esteemed a great ornament and advantage to the town.

Appendix.

No. 1.

AN INVENTORY OF THE GOODS AND IMPLEMENTS BELONG-
ING TO THE PLANTATIONS AT PISCATAWAY AND NEWICH-
EWANOCK, IN NEW ENGLAND, JULY, 1635.

AT PISCATAWAY.

ARMS AND AMMUNITION.

3 Sakers, 3 minions, 2 faulcons, 2 rabenets, 4 murthers, 2 chambers, 22 harquebusses, 4 muskets, 46 fowling pieces, 67 carbines, 6 pair of pistols, 61 swords and belts, 15 halberds, 31 headpieces, 82 beaver spears, 50 flasks pair of band-aleers, 13 barrels of powder, iron bullets, 2 firkins of lead bullets, 2 hogsheds of match, 955*lb.* of small shot, 2 drums, 15 recorders and hautboys.

STORES.

58 cloth Cassocks and breeches, 153 canvas cassocks and breeches, 46 stuff cassocks and breeches, 80 shirts, 58 hats, 40 dozen of coarse hose, 130 pair of shoes, 204 pair of stockings, 79 Monmouth caps, 149 pair small hose, 27 lined coats, 40 rugs, 15 papous coats, 23 red cloth waistcoats, 16 moose coats, 9 pieces red baize, 375 yards sail cloth, 12 bolts canvas, 12 hides shoe leather, 17*lb.* wt. of lead, 14 iron pots, 23 iron kettles, 1276 wrought pewter, 504 wrought brass, 5 barrels nails, 1 barrel spikes, 146 bars iron, 28 bars steel, quantities of all sorts of smith's, cooper's, carpenter's, mason's tools, 19 barrels of pitch, 16 barrels of tar, 8 coils of rope, of 2 1-2 inches, 3 coils rope of 3 1-2 inches, 10 cables of 4 inches, 12 herring nets, 6 seines, 70 cod lines, 67 mackerel lines, 11 gange cod hooks, 30 dozen mackerel hooks, 10 squid lines, 70 knots twine, 1500 boards, 1151 pine planks.

PROVISIONS.

140 bushels of corn, 3 barrels oatmeal, 32 barrels meal, 15 barrels malt, 29 barrels peas, 153 candles, 610 lbs. sugar, 512 lbs. tobacco, 6 pipes wine, 170 gallons aquavitæ, 2 chirurgion's chests.

CATTLE.

24 cows, 2 bulls, 22 steers and heifers, 10 calves, 92 sheep and lambs, 27 goats, 64 hogs old and young, 13 mares and horses, 9 colts.

This is a true inventory of the goods left by Capt. Walter Neal, to be delivered to Henry Joselyn, Esq. by command of Capt. John Mason, and received by us.

AMBROSE GIBBINS,
THOMAS WARNERTON.

No. 2.

GRANT OF THE GLEBE IN PORTSMOUTH.

Whereas divers and sundry of the Inhabitants of the Lower end of Pascataquack, whose names are hereunder written, of their free and voluntary mind, good wills and assents, without constraint or compulsion of any manner of person or persons, have granted, given and contributed divers and several sums of money towards the building, erecting and founding of a parsonage house, with a chapel thereto united, as also fiftie acres of Glebe land which is annexed and given to the said parsonage, that is to say, twelve acres thereof adjoyneth to the said Parsonage house and layd out already by meetes and bounds, the south part abbutteth upon the edg of the salt creeke marsh, and soe tendeth along beyond Roger Knight's field, on the north part it extends towards Strawberry bank creeke, on the north east towards the River Pascataquack ending at the great pyne by the house, and the west stretcheth up into the main land, whereof there is three acres or thereabouts already inclosed with a pale for a corn field, and a garden thereto belonging, the residue of the 50 acres being 38 is thus to be taken, that is to say, the full tenth part of the fresh marsh lying at the head of Strawberry bank creeke and that being meeted and bounded to take the remainder of the 38 acres next adjoyning to the said marsh soe layd out, which said ground at the time of the said building thereon was desolate and void. Now the said Inhabitants aforesaid by their common assent and consent toward the furtherance and advancement of the honor and glory of God, doe give, grant, aliene and set over unto Thomas

Walford and Henry Sherburne, Church Wardens of this Parish, to them and their successors, all the said Parsonage house, chappell, cornfield, garden glebe land with the appurtenances, with all our right, title, interest in and to the sayd premises to remane, endure and continue in perpetuities for ever to the use of the aforesaid parish. And that the said Church Wardens, their successors and either of them which are yearly to be chosen by the said Parishioners be deemed and adjudged only as feoffees in trust to the use and behoof of the said parish, and that during the continuation of this combination, The Governor and Assistants for the year being, as alsoe after the dissolution of sayd combination by his Majestie, two of the principall men of the said Parish which shall likewise yearly be chosen by the said parishioners, who jointly with the Church Wardens shall have the ruling, ordering and governing the said parsonage house, chappell, glebe land for matters of building reparations or ornaments thereto belonging. Provided always, that neither the said Governor, Assistants, overseers or Church Wardens, their successors, or either of them, shall not alienate, give, grant, bargain, sell or convert to any other use the said parsonage house, chappell, field garden, glebe land, or any the premises to any manner of person or persons without the common assent and consent of all the said parishioners. And whatso ever act or conveyance they shall make contrary to the true intent and meaning aforesaid, shall be utterly void and of none effect.

And for as much as the said parishioners have founded and built the said parsonage house, chappell with the appurtenances at their own proper costs and charges, and have made choyse of Mr. Richard Gibson to be the first parson of the said parsonage, soe likewise whensoever the said parsonage happen to be voyd by death of the incumbent, or his time agreed upon expired, that then the patronage, presently and nomination of the parson to be vested and remain in the power and election of the said parishioners or the greater part of them for ever. Given under our hands and seales this 25 of May, 1640, in the sixteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Charles by the Grace of God, King of England, &c.

Francis Williams, *Governor.*

Ambrose Gibbins, *Assistant.*

William Jones

Renald Fernald

John Crowther

Anthony Bracket

Michael Chatterton

Jno. Wall

Robert Puddington

Mathew Coe

Henry Sherburn

John Lander

Henry Taler

Jno. Jones

William Berry (*seal*)

Jno. Pickering

Jno. Billing (*seal*)

Jno. Wolten

Nicholas Row

William Palmer.

No. 3.

At a General Court of Election held at Boston the 10th day of the third month, 1643.

The whole plantation within this Jurisdiction is divided into four Shires, viz:

ESSEX—Salem

Lyn
Enon
Ipswich
Newbury
Glocester
Cochicawick.

MIDDLESEX—Charlestown

Watertown
Sudbury
Concord
Woburn
Medford
Lyn Village.

SUFFOLK—Boston

Roxbury
Dorchester
Dedham
Braintree
Weymouth
Hingham
Nantasket.

NORFOLK—Salisbury

Hampton
Haverhill
Exeter
Dover
Strawberry Bank.

No. 4.

FRANCIS SMALL'S DEPOSITION.

Francis Small, of Piscataway, in New England, planter, aged sixty-five years, maketh oath, That he hath lived in New England upward of fifty years; that he very well knew the plantations Capt. Mason had caused to be made at Piscataway, Strawberry Bank and Newichewanock, and was well acquainted with all the servants employed by Capt. Mason upon the said Plantations, some whereof are yet living; and that there was a great stock at each of those Plantations. And this deponent doth very well remember, that Capt. Mason sent into this Country Eight Danes to build Mills, to saw Timber, and tend them, and to make Pot-ashes; and that the first Saw Mill and Corn Mill in New England was erected at Capt. Mason's Plantation at Newichewanock upward of fifty years, where was also a large house with all conveniencies of out-houses, and well fortified with store of Arms. That about forty years since the said house and buildings were burnt to the ground, but by what means this deponent doth not know; That about the same time this deponent, with others, was employed

by Capt. Francis Norton, (who then lived at Capt. Mason's house at Piscataway, called the Great house) to drive about One Hundred head of Cattle towards Boston, and the said Capt. Norton did goe with the Cattle; that such Cattle were then usually sold at five and twenty pound the head, Money of England. And the said Norton did settle himself at Charles Town, near Boston, and wholly left Capt. Mason's Plantation, upon which the other servants shared the residue of the goods and stock among them, which were left in that and the other Plantations, and possessed themselves of the houses and lands. And this deponent doth verily believe that from the Cattle sent hither by Capt. Mason, most of the Cattle in the Provinces of New Hampshire and Main have been raised, for this deponent doth not remember or heard that any one person else did bring over any. That Thomas Warnerton, a servant to Capt. Mason, and lived in a fair house at Strawberry Bank, about the year 1644, did carry quantities of Goods and Arms belonging unto Capt. Mason's Plantation, and sold them to the French that did inhabit at Port Royal, where the said Thomas Warnerton was slain. That sometime after one Sampson Lane came over from England with power, as he pretended, to look after and take care of the aforesaid Plantations, and did settle himself in the Great house at Strawberry Bank, and made additions thereunto where he continued about Three years, and then returned for England; upon whose departure John and Richard Cutts got into possession of the aforesaid house and lands at Strawberry Bank, but by what right this deponent never heard; and have sold several small Tracts, upon which many houses are now built, and possessed by the Relations of the said Cutts.

FRANCIS SMALL.

Sworn before me the 8th September, 1685.

R. CHAMBERLAIN, Just. P.

No. 5.

NATHANIEL BOULTER AND JOHN REDMAN'S DEPOSITION.

Nathaniel Boulter aged sixty years, and John Redman aged seventy years, of the Town of Hampton, in the Province of New Hampshire, Yeoman, make oath, That they were two of the first Planters that did sit down at Hampton aforesaid about fourty three years since by Authority of the Massachusetts General Court, which gave power to some few persons (called Selectmen) who came likewise to inhabit in the said Town, to

grant or sell lands to others as they thought fit. That upon these deponents first settling at Hampton, several of the Servants of Capt. Mason, or his Heirs, came from Piscattaway to Hampton, and did forbid these Deponents and others from settling in the said Town without licence from the Proprietor or his Agents, and paying a Quit Rent. But these Deponents and others of the Inhabitants being backed by Authority of the Massachusetts Government which had declared those lands to be in their jurisdiction, no regard was had to the prohibition by Capt. Mason's Servants. And these Deponents do very well remember, That Mr. Mason had made a great Plantation at Piscattaway and Newichewanock, where there were a great Stock of Cattle, and much land improved. And these Deponents, about forty years since, did see a drove of One Hundred head of Great Cattle, or thereabouts, that came from off Capt. Mason's Plantation at Piscattaway, and drove through the Town of Hampton towards Boston, by Capt. Norton and others, the Servants of Capt. Mason or his heirs, and there sold and disposed of (as these Deponents were informed) by the said Capt. Norton, who did then settle himself in or near Boston, and deserted the Plantation at Piscattaway. And these Deponents doe further testifie that such Cattle were comonly valued at five and twenty pounds the head, being very large Beasts of a Yellowish colour, and said to be brought by Capt. Mason from Denmark. And these Deponents say, That soon after Capt. Norton's going to Boston to inhabit, the Massachusetts Government did lay claim to the whole Province of New Hampshire, as pretending it to be within their Patent, and did accordingly exercise a Jurisdiction therein, and required those inhabitants to take an oath of fidelity to them.

NATHANIEL BOULTER,
JOHN REDMAN.

Sworn before me 6th of November, 1685.

R. CHAMBERLAIN, Just. P.

No. 6.

GEORGE WALTON'S DEPOSITION.

George Walton of Great Island in the Province of New-Hampshire, Yeoman, aged seventy years or thereabouts, testifieth, That he hath been an Inhabitant in the said Province about fifty years, That most part of the lands he now possesses

were granted by Capt. Henry Jocelyne, Steward to Capt. Mason the Proprietor, That this deponent doth very well know that Capt. Mason had many Servants, and a great Stock of Cattle upon his lands, That the said Servants and others after the decease of the said Capt. Mason did imbezill and ruine the Estate. And particularly Capt. Francis Norton, Agent or Steward to Capt. Mason or his Heirs, about fourty years since did drive from Capt. Mason's Plantation at Piscattaway called the Great House, about One Hundred head of Great Cattle which were then usually valued at five and twenty pounds the head, And as this deponent was credibly informed the aforesaid Cattle were sold in or about Boston by the said Norton, who also settled himself thereabouts and deserted Capt. Mason's Plantation, That thereupon the rest of the Stock, goods and implements belonging to Capt. Mason's Plantation were made away by the said Servants and others, And this Deponent doth very well remember the fort built by Capt. Mason upon the Great Island, (in the same place where the fort now stands,) and that it was strong and substantially made and furnished with great Guns, of which some were Brass, and were afterwards taken away by Major Waldern and his brother William Waldern and others, but by what authority this Deponent never heard, and some of the Guns this Deponent did see put into a ship belonging to one Lane, And this Deponent knows, That to the Great House at Piscattaway aforesaid there were adjoining about One Thousand Acres of improved Lands, Marsh, Meadow, and Planting grounds, which were divided and parcelled out by the Servants of Capt. Mason and others, the select or prudential men (of the Town of Portsmouth) as they were so called who still enjoy the same or their Heirs and assigns, whereof William Vaughan and his Brother in Law have a large share given them by their Father in Law Richard Cutt, And the said Great House by the means aforesaid came to decay and fell down, the ruins being yet to be seen, out of which several good farms are now made. And this Deponent doth very well remember, That the said Capt. Mason had made a great Plantation at a place called Newichewanock, about sixteen miles from that of Piscattaway, which by the means aforesaid was ruined and shared among several of the said Capt. Mason's Servants and others. And this Deponent doth further say, That to his particular knowledge the Servants sent over by Capt. Mason of which some are living, and those descended from them which are many, have been and are the most violent opposers of the now Proprietor, Robert Mason, Esq. And this Deponent further saith, That those lands in Portsmouth called both now and formerly Strawberry Bank, were the planting grounds and pasture belonging to the Great House at Strawberry Bank wherein Thomas Wamerton

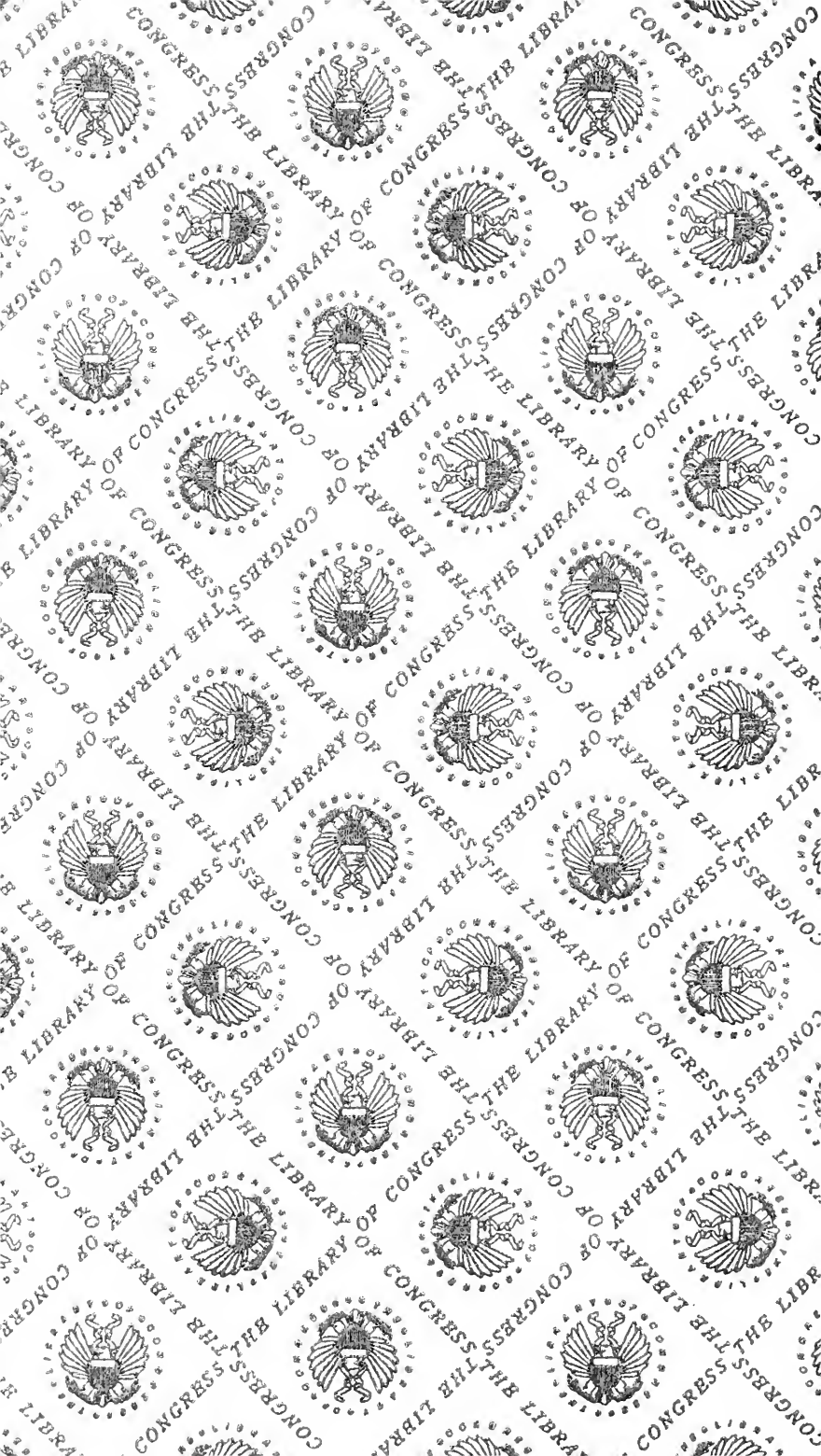
did inhabit, that was sometime Agent for Capt. Mason, and after the death of Wannerton who was slain about forty years since, the said house and lands were possessed by Sampson Lane, but by what right this Deponent doth not know.

GEORGE WALTON.

Taken before me, the 18th December, 1685.

WALTER BAREFOOT, Dep. Governor.

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